

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

Publix flunks



By MARK ALBRIGHT,
© 2010 St. Petersburg Times

Most of the nation's big grocers improved to passing grades in Greenpeace's annual ranking of sustainable seafood practices, but Publix and Winn-Dixie flunked for the fifth straight year.

"We've made a lot of progress, but have a long way to go," said Casson Trenor, seafood campaign manager for the save-the-oceans group. "What's changed is we reached widespread acknowledgement of the problems and need for solutions."

Ratings are based on educational labeling, acceptable harvesting techniques for wild caught products and healthy practices for farm-raised seafood.

They are also graded on how many of 22 "red list" species overfished to the threshold of extinction are stocked by each chain.

Since the campaign began, many chains stopped carrying monkfish, orange roughy and Chilean sea bass. But even most chains awarded passing grades sell 15 of the 22 red list species including grouper and snapper.

This year Safeway surged to the top, followed by Target. Whole Foods, Aldi, Sweetbay Supermarket, Costco and Walmart all got passing grades among the top 13. □

TAKING ON REPUBLICANS



Obama unveils debt relief plan

By MARK LANDLER
© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama made the case Wednesday for slowing the rapid growth of the national debt while retaining core Democratic values, proposing a mix of long-term spending cuts, tax increases and changes to social welfare programs as his opening position in a partisan budget battle over the nation's fiscal challenges.

After spending months on the sidelines as Republicans laid out their plans, Obama jumped in to present an alternative and a philosophical rebuttal to the conservative approach that will

reach the House floor Friday. Republican leaders were working Wednesday to round up votes for that measure and one to finance the government for the rest of the fiscal year.

Obama said his proposal would cut federal budget deficits by a cumulative \$4 trillion over 12 years, compared with a deficit reduction of \$4.4 trillion over 10 years in the Republican plan. But the president said he would use starkly different means, rejecting the fundamental changes to Medicare and Medicaid proposed by Republicans and relying in part on tax increases on affluent Americans.

Continued on Page B2

Banning efforts to reveal farm abuse



A Human Society video showing conditions at farms in Iowa owned by two of the nation's largest egg producers, in an undated handout photo. New legislation considers it a crime to produce, distribute or possess photos and video taken without permission at an agricultural facility, a practice animal rights groups say is invaluable for revealing abuses.

(The New York Times)

By A.G. SULZBERGER

© 2011 New York Times

Undercover videos showing grainy, sometimes shocking images of sick or injured livestock have become a favorite tool of animal rights organizations to expose what they consider illegal or inhumane treatment of animals.

Captured by animal rights advocates posing as farm workers, such videos have prompted meat recalls, slaughterhouse closings, criminal convictions of employees and apologies from corporate executives assuring that the offending images are an aberration.

Continued on Next Page

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Resort casino idea dies



By MARY KLAS

© The New York Times 2011

TALLAHASSEE - An attempt by Las Vegas' largest casino operators to bring resort-style casinos to Florida appeared all but dead Wednesday as a Senate committee killed the bill, rejecting promises that the effort could bring new jobs and revenue.

"It would be an expansion of gambling that would kill our local industry," said Sen. Jim Norman of Tampa, who joined two other Republicans to vote against the bill in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee. "Our existing horse tracks would just wither and die."

That was not the promise offered by Sen. Oscar Braynon, the Miami Democrat who sponsored the bill. The proposal would have created five zones within the state to allow investors to operate one facility per region. Voters in each region would have to approve.

"These resorts will bring jobs upwards of 20,000 just in the first year," Braynon told the committee.

But Frank Messersmith, a lobbyist for the Florida Sheriff's Association, warned that the tradeoff of expanded gambling would not be worth the reward in revenue.

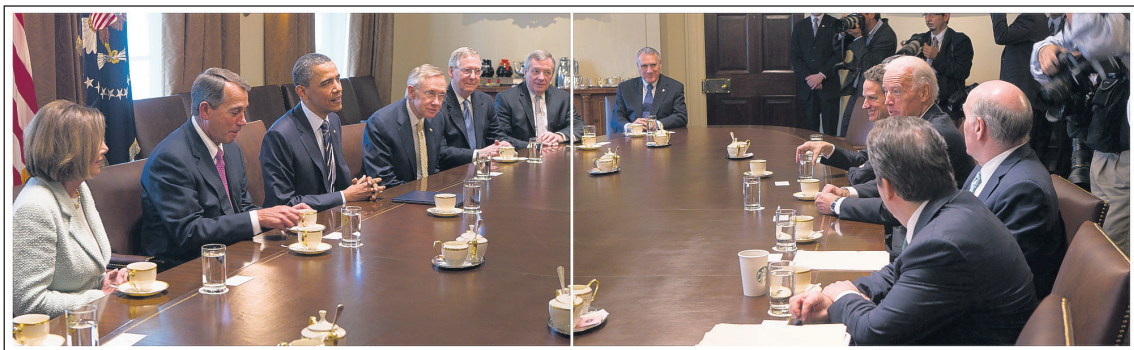
Broward County officials said the measure would pit Broward against Miami-Dade in the race to get the bid for the casino in South Florida.

And Sen. Andy Gardiner, the Senate Republican leader from Orlando, called it the "by far, the largest expansion of gambling" in state history.

Promoters of the bill said that the 3-3 tie vote on the bill was not official because it took place after the meeting was scheduled to adjourn.

"It's not dead," said Nick Iarossi, a lobbyist for the Las Vegas Sands, which has been promoting the legislation with hopes of building a resort and casino in Miami. "We will need to go back and regroup."

But Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff of Fort Lauderdale, the chairwoman of the committee, said she didn't think he had the votes. □



In a two picture combo President Barack Obama meets with a bipartisan group of Congressional leaders in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington on April 13, 2011. Obama is scheduled to outline his approach to tackling the national debt on Wednesday, but House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) has warned the president that raising taxes as part of the plan is a nonstarter. From left: House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Boehner, Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Vice President Joe Biden, White House Chief of Staff Bill Daley and National Economic Council Director Gene Sperling.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

OBAMA Continued from Front Page

The president framed his proposal as a balanced alternative to the Republican plan, setting the stage for a debate that will consume Washington in coming weeks, as the administration faces off with Congress over raising the national debt ceiling, and into next year, as the president runs for re-election.

Obama named Vice President Joe Biden to lead the negotiations with Congress, which the administration hopes will produce the outlines of a deal by the end of June, although a detailed agreement might have to await the outcome of the 2012 election. Biden played a similar role in talks that averted a government shutdown at the 11th hour, over issues far less thorny than those on the table now.

In a 44-minute speech to an audience at George Washington University that included Rep. Paul

D. Ryan of Wisconsin, the author of the Republican plan, Obama was often combative and partisan, saying the Republican approach would hurt the elderly by driving up the cost of medical care, deprive millions of health insurance and starve the nation of investments in its future.

"These are the kind of cuts that tells us we can't afford the America that I believe in," he said. "I believe it paints a vision of our future that's deeply pessimistic."

"There's nothing serious about a plan that claims to reduce the deficit by spending a trillion dollars on tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires," the president continued, as Ryan sat stone faced. "There's nothing courageous about asking for sacrifice from those who can least afford it and don't have any clout on Capitol Hill."

Yet Obama acknowledged that the rising medical costs and the mounting debt required action. □

FARM ABUSE Continued from Front Page

In Iowa, where agriculture is a dominant force both economically and politically, such undercover investigations could soon be illegal.

A bill before the Iowa Legislature would make it a crime to produce, distribute or possess photos and video taken without permission at an agricultural facility. It would also criminalize lying on an application to work at an agriculture facility "with intent to commit an act not authorized by the owner."

Similar legislation is being considered in Florida and Minnesota, part of a broader effort by large agricultural companies to pre-emptively block the kind of investigations that have left their operations uncomfortably – and unpredictably – open to scrutiny. Their opponents, including national groups that oppose industrial farming practices, say these undercover investigations have been invaluable for revealing problems and are a form of whistle-blowing that should be protected. They argue that the legislation, if passed, would essentially hide animal abuse and food safety violations.

Wayne Pacelle, the executive director of the Humane Society of the United States, noted

that secretly recorded videos released last year revealed unsanitary conditions inside egg plants in Iowa. Months later, a different Iowa egg producer was responsible for the largest egg recall in U.S. history because of salmonella contamination.

"It's because they don't want you to see what's going on that we've resorted to employee investigations," Pacelle said.

Kevin Vinchattle, chief executive of the Iowa Poultry Association, which helped write the bill, suggested that those willing to lie on an application might go further and stage fake videos, destroy equipment or carry diseases onto farms. He could not provide any examples of those things occurring.

"If they misrepresent themselves to come on your operation to do something that's not in your best interest, they ought to be held accountable for that," Vinchattle said.

The Iowa bill was approved by a wide margin by the state House and was passed by the state Senate Agriculture Committee. It stalled after the attorney general's office raised concerns that prohibiting the possession and distribution of images – a measure intended to prevent animal rights groups from using them for fundraising – infringed on free speech. Supporters are working on compromise language. □

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In Massachusetts

Obama-related church fire case up



Michael Jacques leaves federal court in Springfield, Mass. where a jury has been deliberating charges that Jacques was among those who set fire to the Macedonia Church of God in Christ in Springfield shortly after President Barack Obama's election in November 2008.

By DAVE COLLINS
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — A federal jury on Wednesday told a judge that it was deadlocked on two of the three charges in the trial of a white man accused of burning down a predominantly black church hours after President Barack Obama's election in 2008.

U.S. District Judge Michael Ponsor told the jurors in the case of 26-year-old Michael Jacques not to become discouraged and to start deliberations fresh on Thursday morning. Jacques and two friends

were charged with setting fire to the Macedonia Church of God in Christ in Springfield, in what prosecutors said was racist anger over the election of the country's first black president. The building, near all three men's homes, was under construction at the time and is now being rebuilt. No one was seriously injured.

The all-white jury told Ponsor it was hung on two charges, conspiracy against civil rights and destruction of religious property. The remaining charge is use of fire to commit a felony. The three charges

combined carry 10 to 60 years in prison.

Deliberations began Tuesday after a 15-day trial, and Ponsor told lawyers outside of the jury's presence he thought it was too early Wednesday to be getting a note from the panel saying it was deadlocked. Ponsor may give jurors on Thursday the so-called Allen charge, a set of formal instructions for deadlocked juries. But he worried he would only be able to give the charge once and then have to declare a mistrial if jurors still say they can't agree. Prosecutors could seek a second trial. "Don't be discouraged," Ponsor told the jury. "This case was 15 days of trial. That's a lot of time to take in evidence."

Jurors asked two other questions Wednesday. The first was if they could continue deliberating on the destruction of religious property and use of fire charges if they deadlocked on the civil rights charge. Ponsor told them yes. Jurors also asked how long after Jacques' confession to police did he recant and claim it was coerced. □



The boat launch into the Hudson River is seen in Newburgh, where a mother and three children were found dead in New York.

In New York

Mother drives van into river with kids

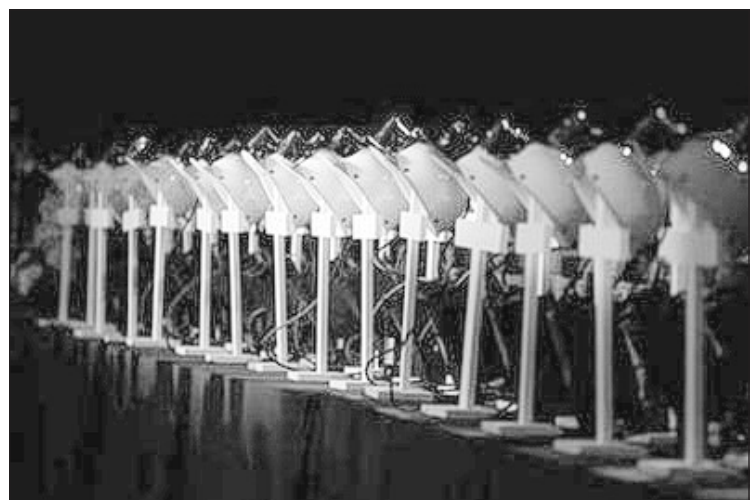
NEWBURGH, New York — A mother and three children were found dead in a submerged minivan she intentionally drove into the Hudson River after a fourth child escaped and got help, officials said on Wednesday.

A drenched and shaken Lashaun Armstrong, 10, stumbled into the Newburgh Fire Department at about 7:50 p.m. local time on Tuesday, police said.

"The boy reported that his mother had driven the car into the river," said Newburgh Police Chief Michael Ferrara.

It appeared the children were alive when their mother "intentionally drove the car into the river," he said.

After an hour-long search and rescue effort by police and fire department dive teams and a helicopter, the car was found submerged in 8 feet of murky water about 25 feet off shore near a boat ramp. □



A row of 29 crosses with mining helmets and lights on them are shown during a memorial service for the 29 coal miners who recently died at Upper Big Branch Mine in Beckley.

Ex-foreman of Virginia mine pleads guilty

WASHINGTON — A former foreman at a West Virginia coal mine where an explosion killed 29 workers last year pleaded guilty on Wednesday to lying to investigators about his job qualifications, the first plea in a federal probe of the blast.

Thomas Harrah, 45, pleaded guilty to falsely claiming he was qualified to serve as a foreman at the Upper Big Branch mine between January 2008 and August 2009, about

eight months before the explosion at the Massey Energy-owned mine.

"This case arose from our investigation into the explosion and is directed at preventing a similar tragedy from happening again," Booth Goodwin, attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia, said in a statement.

Investigators have been examining Massey's actions and the circumstances around the blast. The mine had been cited

for many safety violations in the past but company officials have denied the explosion was the result of "willful disregard" for safety.

Harrah was the second person charged as a result of the criminal investigation into the accident.

The head of security at the facility, Hughie Stover, was charged with impeding investigators probing the explosion and lying to them as well. □

More than 40 percent of ex-cons return to jail



An inmate serving a jail sentence rests his hand on a fence at Maricopa County's Tent City jail in Phoenix.

BOSTON — Despite more than \$50 billion spent on prisons, more than 40 percent of offenders are back behind bars within three years of release, a report on Wednesday showed. Responding to the Pew Center on the States report, experts blamed high recidivism rates on prisons' emphasis on punishment rather than rehabilitation.

The report covering 1999 to 2004 found a stable rate of recidivism, which is the measure of prisoners returning to jail after committing a new crime or violating parole or probation.

"There's been an enormous escalation in prison spending but a barely noticeable impact on the national recidivism rate," said Adam Gelb, director of the Public Safety Performance Project of the Pew

Center on the States.

Sara Wakefield, an assistant professor of criminology, law and society at the University of California, Irvine, said states, like California, have too many inmates and too few rehabilitation programs to make an impact.

"Prisons are not doing a lot of human capital development and drug treatment and other things that would make you think that inmates would be better off once they leave," she said.

"This path of cycling in and out of prison is not doing anyone any good."

The report pointed to Oregon as a model for reducing recidivism by assessing inmate needs at intake, case management during incarceration and transition planning before release. □

In California

Man charged with 4 cold-case killings

By JASON DEAREN
Associated Press

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. — A strange coincidence? Or a glimpse into the twisted mind of a serial killer?

Four California women who investigators believe were murdered by the same man all had alliterative names: Carmen Colon, Roxene Rogasch, Pamela Parsons and Tracy Tafoya.

The suspect, a 77-year-old petty thief and freelance photographer, was arrested this week, and now detectives are looking deeper into the deaths and whether the man had anything to do with New York's "Double Initial Murders" the killings in the early 1970s of three girls, each with matching initials.

For decades, Joseph Naso was known only for small-time thefts until a routine probation search of his Reno, Nev., home led to the unsolved slayings dating back to the 1970s. On Wednesday, he was charged in a California court with four counts of murder, plus special circumstances that make him eligible for the death penalty. He was scheduled to be arraigned on the charges at an afternoon hearing.

Authorities have released few

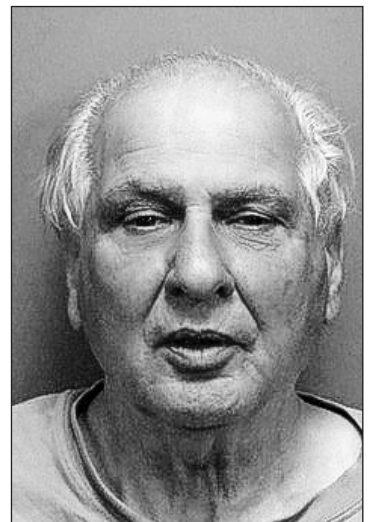
details about the cases, which all involve women whose bodies were found in Northern California with little trace of their assailant. But their names alone already bear an eerie resemblance to the notorious slayings in the Rochester, N.Y., area in the early 1970s. The victims there were three young girls with alliterative names. And one of them also was named Carmen Colon. Naso, a New York native, traveled frequently between the Rochester area and the West during that time and has claimed at least a half-dozen addresses around the country, authorities said.

His name, however, never surfaced in the investigation until he came under suspicion in California, said Bob Hetzke, chief deputy at the Wayne County Sheriff's Department in New York.

"It's safe to say that we're looking hard at him right now. There's some overlapping information that would apply to us the fact that he was in the area at the time, the double initials," Hetzke said.

Authorities did note that a DNA sample taken from one of the New York victims didn't match Naso, and they have no other physical proof that he was involved in those killings.

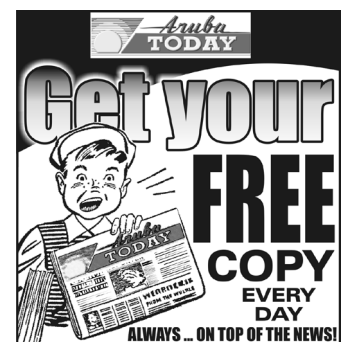
Still, they're not ready to eliminate Naso as a suspect and hope area residents who might



Joseph Naso. Authorities in California and Nevada plan to release more information about Naso, the 77-year-old man accused in four homicides spanning two decades.

know him will be able to help with their investigation.

"Of course, if anybody has any information on this fellow, we would love to talk to them," said New York State Police senior investigator Allan Dombroski, who declined to discuss the probe in detail because of concerns it could jeopardize the California cases. □



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In California

College students protest higher edu budget cuts

By AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — California State University students and faculty are protesting state budget cuts that could lead to higher tuition, larger class sizes and lower enrollment.

More than 100 faculty members, students and staff have occupied a building at the university's Sacramento campus, and about 100 counterparts on the Long Beach campus marched to an administration building that had already been closed down as a precaution. The Sacramento rally began early Wednesday afternoon with more than 600 protesters, who blamed CSU Chancellor Charles Reed for not doing enough to oppose cuts. California lawmakers are using to close the state's \$26.6 billion budget deficit.

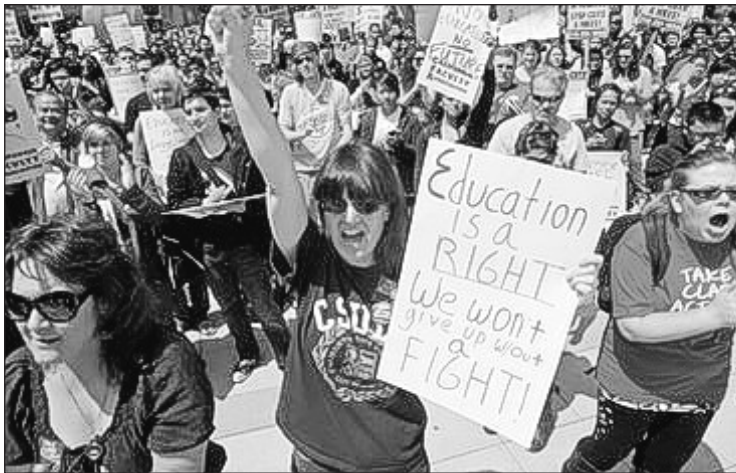
The protestors marched from the school's library quad to an administrative building to present a set of petitions.

College students and faculty in California and other states on Wednesday planned to protest state budget cuts to higher education that could lead to higher tuition, larger class sizes and lower enrollment.

Rallies, marches and teach-ins were scheduled at all 23 California State University campuses. Similar events are planned at campuses in Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey and other states where legislators are slashing education spending to close huge budget shortfalls.

In California, deep budget cuts during the height of the recession two years ago led to sharp tuition hikes, employee furloughs, course cutbacks and reduced enrollment at the CSU and University of California systems.

The state restored some of that funding last year, but California's public colleges and universities face another round of painful cuts as Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature seek to close another



Elaine Nadalin, center, of Costa Mesa, Calif., a junior who says it will take her six years to graduate, joins several hundred college students, faculty and staff of the California State University system protesting state budget cuts to higher education that could lead to higher tuition, larger class sizes and lower enrollment, on the campus at California State University Long Beach.

massive budget deficit.

"We've been carving away and carving away and carving away," said Lillian Taiz, president of the California Faculty Association, which is working with students and employees to organize the demonstrations.

"The path we are on is almost suicidal for the state."

UC and CSU would lose \$500 million under the governor's budget proposal, but his plan depends on voters approving temporary increases in sales, vehicle and personal income taxes. So far, Brown hasn't secured the Republican support needed to hold a special election to even allow a vote on the tax question.

Without that tax revenue, the state's public colleges and universities could see much deeper cuts, which could lead to soaring tuition bills, fewer undergraduate seats and other drastic measures.

Faculty leaders say the cuts threaten to reduce student access to Cal State, sometimes called the People's University, which serves large numbers of low-income students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college.

Jason Pinzon, a 19-year-old freshman at California State University, Long Beach, said the more than \$4,000 in fees he pays each year makes it difficult to cover his expenses. □

Man arrested for creating fake army unit

LOS ANGELES — A Chinese man was arrested for creating a fake U.S. Army unit and convincing immigrants that joining the squad was a path to citizenship, authorities said.

Yupeng Deng, 51, allegedly gave his recruits military uniforms, had them parade in a Los Angeles suburb and took them to the decommissioned USS Midway aircraft carrier, which is a museum in San Diego.

Deng charged more than 100 fellow Chinese nationals a fee of between \$300 and \$450 to



Fake uniforms

join the fake Army unit, according to the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.

He called his bogus squad the

FAA suspends more sleeping controllers



A passenger jet flies past the FAA control tower at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport.

By JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration is immediately adding a second controller at night at 26 airports and a radar facility after finding two more cases of controllers sleeping on duty.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood's announcement Wednesday came hours after a medical flight carrying at least three people landed at Reno-Tahoe International Airport in Nevada without assistance because the pilot was unable to raise a controller in the airport tower. FAA said in a statement that the controller, who has been suspended, had fallen asleep. The incident occurred at 2 a.m. PDT, when the controller was alone on duty.

Another controller, at Boeing Field-King County International in Seattle, has also been

suspended for falling asleep during his morning shift on Monday, FAA said. That controller was already facing disciplinary action for falling asleep on two separate occasions during an early evening shift in January, the agency said.

Two controllers at the airport in Lubbock, Texas, have been suspended for an incident in the early morning hours of March 29, the agency said. In that instance, a controller in Fort Worth had to try repeatedly to raise the Lubbock controllers in order to hand off control of an inbound aircraft. The controllers also failed to hand off a plane departing Lubbock to the Fort Worth radar center, FAA said.

The latest cases follow three previously disclosed incidents in which controllers have been suspended, including two episodes of controllers sleeping on duty.

"I am totally outraged by these incidents. This is absolutely unacceptable," LaHood said in a statement. "The American public trusts us to run a safe system. Safety is our No. 1 priority and I am committed to working 24/7 until these problems are corrected."

The latest spate of incidents began last month when two airliners landed at Washington's Reagan National Airport without assistance from the tower after pilots were unable to raise the lone supervisor on duty at midnight. The supervisor later acknowledged he had fallen asleep. □

U.S. Army/Military Special Forces Reserve unit, or MSFR for short, and he gave himself the lofty title of supreme commander, prosecutors said. Aside from telling recruits that belonging to the unit was a path to U.S. citizenship, Deng also urged them to pay him cash for higher military rank, according to prosecutors. He also allegedly provided them with fake documents and phony military identification cards.

Deng, a resident of the Los Angeles suburb of El Monte. □

In South Dakota

Struggling mining town rejects nude dancing



Strip dancers in Chicago bar

CHICAGO – Voters in the town of Lead, South Dakota, rejected a proposal on Tuesday that would have allowed nude dancing at bars in its historic downtown, a move supporters had said would give an economic boost to the struggling mining town.

The proposed easing of the state's adult entertainment law was defeated by a vote of 535-303, Lead City Commissioner Casey Borsch said in a phone interview. He characterized turnout for the referendum as

"considerably higher" than normal.

State law in South Dakota already permits nude dancing in bars provided it does not take place within a quarter-mile of any residence, business or community gathering place.

But city commissioners in Lead, a town of about 3,000 near Deadwood in the Black Hills, voted in January to adopt a more lenient standard, eliminating the quarter-mile rule for their city by means of a special ordinance.

The commission acted after the owners of the Wild Thing Saloon on Main Street, located a few blocks from the town's opera house and public library, brought in nude dancers for two days in December to see how popular it would

be. The event reportedly drew hundreds of extra visitors into Lead, best known as the site of the Homestake gold mine.

Opponents of the easing, which the commission passed 3-2, gathered enough signatures to put the ordinance to a public vote. On Tuesday, they prevailed. Once the largest and deepest mine in the Western Hemisphere, Lead's Homestake mine ceased production and closed in 2002. Scientific researchers now use it to conduct research into neutrinos and other cosmic particles. But the facility no longer employs anywhere near as many local workers. In 1989, the nearby town of Deadwood legalized gambling, a move that created a two-decade-long boom and generated millions of dollars in taxes and fees, according to the state. □

Pink diamond fails to sell at auction



Pretty in pink

NEW YORK – A more than 10 carat purplish-pink diamond expected to fetch up to \$15 million failed to sell at Christie's Magnificent Jewels auction on Tuesday which took in a total of \$31.8 million. "We were disappointed that the 10-carat purple-pink diamond did not find a buyer but top-quality white, blue, pink and yellow diamonds fared very well," said Christie's head of jewelry in New York, Radul Kadakia. He added that a Fancy Vivid blue diamond sold for \$3.67 million, or more than \$1 million per carat which exceeded its high estimate. Five jewels topped the \$1 million mark. Christie's said the sale saw heavy competition among both trade buyers and private collectors for colorless diamonds, large gemstones and signed jewels. But the 10.09 carat Fancy Vivid cushion-cut was expected to be the

sale's highlight, with prices for large pink diamonds, the most expensive colored diamonds on the market, having skyrocketed in recent years. Fewer than 10 percent of all pink diamonds mined weigh more than .20 carats. They get

their color through a rare, naturally occurring slippage of the crystallographic lattice in the stone while it is forming deep within the Earth's crust. It failed to sell

when two clients bid, but failed to reach the reserve an undisclosed minimum amount at which the owner is willing to sell. Kadakia said Christie's had already received inquiries regarding a private after-sale of the stone. "The transaction is still alive, and though the diamond did not sell in the room last night, perhaps we'll see something take place in the coming days," Kadakia said. □

Five jewels topped the \$1 million mark

In Indianapolis

4 charged in baby-selling case

INDIANAPOLIS – Prosecutors on Wednesday charged two couples here with conspiring to sell a newborn baby for \$300 in a deal that would have put the child in the care of a convicted child molester and convicted child abuser. The three-count indictment includes felony child-selling charges against all four defendants, as well as felony forgery and conspiracy to commit forgery charges. According to prosecutors, Michael Overby, a 57-year-old convicted child molester, arranged to buy the baby from Rose Faucett, the child's 36-year-old mother. As part of the alleged scheme,

Overby and Faucett forged a state form -- a paternity affidavit -- that named Overby as the child's father and submitted it to the Indianapolis-area hospital where the child was born. Also charged in the case are Overby's girlfriend, a 50-year-old named Debbie Overby on probation for felony child neglect, and Phillip Hester, the child's 58-year-old biological father. Police said the Overbys and Faucett had signed two written agreements. In the first, Faucett promised she would visit the child once a week for no more than two hours and would not visit while she was intoxicated. □

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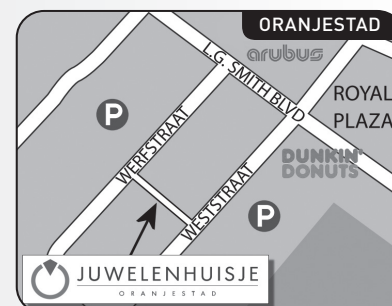
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PALM BEACH – The Aruba Marriott Resort will provide the backdrop for the 2012 New England Patriots Cheerleaders Calendar shoot next month and is looking for the biggest Patriots fan to be a part of the experience. Beginning Monday, April 11, the Aruba Marriott will launch a contest and begin accepting video testimonials via Facebook. Applicants will have the opportunity to plead their case as to why they are the “biggest Patriots fan.” Testimonials can be up to: 30 seconds in length and will be voted on by peers. The video clip with the most votes at the end of the month will win the grand prize of two round trip tickets to Aruba for a four-day, three-night Aruba Marriott beach vacation. “Video submissions showcasing a fan’s ‘Patriot-ism’ should be creative, fun and compelling. We want to see the largest collection of Patriots memorabilia, an oversized Pat Patriot tattoo, a group of men doing a Patriots Cheerleader dance or any other fun demonstration that will convince people to vote for them as the biggest Pats fan,” said Antoinette Van den Berg, Director of Sales & Marketing for the Aruba Marriott. “And don’t worry, the prize trip doesn’t have to be during football season, so our winner won’t even have to miss a game.” □

Tourism Conference Aruba 2011

Divi dazzles the delegates of ATCA

DRUIF BEACH -- A special evening was staged by Divi Mega Resorts in conjunction with the Aruba Tourism Authority, and the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association in honor of the delegates of the Annual Tourism Conference Aruba 2011.

The annual gathering brought key marketing players of the North American market to Aruba for three days of intense business sessions, and three nights of tropical enchantment, April 11 – 14, 2011.

Thirty-six tour operators and nineteen sales representatives of Aruba in major cities in North America & Canada, enjoyed a night under the stars, their barefoot toes cooling in the narrow decorative pool on the outdoor deck, as tables were set right in the

water. Dinner featured Sea Bass Fillet with Chimichuri sauce and spicy Pica de Gallo relish or a choice of Filet Mignon wrapped with bacon and served with potato gratin, mixed vegetables and peppercorn sauce. The grand dessert delivered a combination of the resort’s most delectable sweets, accompanied by red and white wines.

The evening’s entertainment with Sabor de Cuba presenting a Goddess of the Sea adoration dance and a steaming hot salsa packed incredible sizzle. The entire experience was designed as a movable feast and started at the Bucuti Beach Resort & Tara Suites, for a cocktail party, then on to the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa for appetizers, culminating at the Divi Mega Resorts where an opera singer positioned in the heart of the pool, water streaming through her oversize sleeves, welcomed dignitaries with a show of water and light. The evening was co-hosted by Divi’s Managing Director Alex Nieuwmeyer, and General Managers Gerrit Griffith, Dutch Village and Divi Golf Villas, Marin Bijl, Divi & Tamarijn Beach Resorts and Mark Norren, Divi Phoenix. □



Divi Delivers an elegant Awards Gala night



PALM BEACH – The gala awards night hosted at the Westin Resort & Casino Aruba, Grand Ballroom, entertained Divi's Vacation Ownership employees in grand style.

Diverse and talented combo Song-Go delivered dinner and dance music, while the culinary brigade of the Westin Resort & Casino Aruba offered a sumptuous dinner buffet accompanied by cocktails and wine.

The evening applauded the company's top achievers and was combined with three rounds of surprise raffles from weekend stays to sailing trips and restaurant meals, the gifts kept coming to surprise everyone.

Divi's Vacation Ownership division offering the purchase of timeshare luxury condos and villas at Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort on Palm Beach, Divi Village Golf & Beach



Resort, and Divi Dutch Village Resort on Druif Beach, proved they are as competent on the dance floor as they are on the sales floor. Pictured here employees of all three properties enjoying the gala night, also attended by Director of Timeshare for Divi Resorts Paula Smith, Director of Sales Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, Christy Garrido, VP of Sales & Marketing



Mark Steward, Divi's CEO E.J. Schanferber, General Manager Gerrit Griffith and Director of Human Resources Maria Esquera. □



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Special friends honored at the Caribbean Palm Village Resort



NOORD - Recently at the Caribbean Palm Village Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Amb-

sador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Caribbean Palm Village Resort, they call their home away from home. The following guests were honored as an distinguished visitor for the island of Aruba: Dr. Graig & Linda Zendzian and also Edward Hayes and Patricia Mul-lane together with Daniel & Janice Maloof were honored

as Ambassadors of Goodwill after visiting Aruba for more than 20 years. These special guests are also the new board of directors for the Caribbean Palm Village as follow: Edward Hayes (Board President), Daniel Maloof (Vice President) and also Graig Zendzian (Board member) Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes from ATA with honorees and also Mislady from the Caribbean Palm Village Resort. □

Bonus
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Super 4-Card BINGO starting at 1pm!

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Earth Day is April 22nd

Celebrate it at Starbucks



ORANJESTAD – In honor of Earth Day this year, Starbucks is inviting customers to bring in their reusable travel mug or tumbler and enjoy a free brewed coffee, on the house. The Earth Day celebration is part of Starbucks' ongoing commitment to the environment, urging patrons to reuse their cup and cut down on papers waste.

One person can save trees, but together, people can save forests, and that's why Starbucks would like to encourage everyone to switch from paper cups to reusable travel mugs

Aruba's two Starbucks cafes are a part of our community, committed to helping create the awareness required to save the environment. Throughout April, the company is inviting their partners (employees) and customers worldwide to join together, as change-makers, to take action and make a positive impact in their neighborhoods. So be part of that movement of change and on April 22nd bring a tumbler/travel mug to any of the two Starbucks in Aruba and they will fill it with coffee for free! □

Bier Hier wins the Plaza Cafe Quiz Night Series

ORANJESTAD - Bier Hier is the name of the strong team of quiz fanatics, who always finish in the top three. Last Tuesday evening at Café the Plaza was no exception: the team scored time and time again and finished first during the sixth edition of the weekly Quiz Night Series. The Power Ladies were Bier Hier's biggest competitors; they were set on their heels by the team Purgatory. Unfortunately there was no music round last Tuesday, as the laptop with the musical questions had been stolen.

With two more weeks to go to complete the 8 rounds of the series, the overall Standings are: 1. Bier Hier; 2. Synergy and 3. Purgatory. On May 3, after the Easter Holidays are over, the Tuesday Quiz Night Series at Café the Plaza will be resumed. □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of **Driftwood Fishing Charters**, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant **Driftwood** in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

Rates:

\$360 - 1/2 day

\$720- full day

Rates per boat

Max. 6 people



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Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

Driftwood Restaurant

Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant

Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad

Tel: (297) 583 2515

www.driftwoodaruba.com

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



In Syria

Women march for jailed men be freed



A tank is seen in the Syrian port city of Banias.

By Khaled Yacoub Oweis
Associated Press

AMMAN — Hundreds of women from a Syrian town that has witnessed mass arrests of its men marched along Syria's main coastal highway on Wednesday to demand their release, human rights activists said. Security forces, including secret police, stormed Baida on Tuesday, going into houses and arresting men aged up to 60, the activists said, after townsfolk joined unprecedented protests challenging the 11-year rule of President Bashar al-Assad.

The women from Baida were marching on the main highway leading to Turkey chanting slogans to demand the release of some 350 men, the Syrian Observatory for Hu-

man Rights said.

"The women of Baida are on the highway. They want their men back," the organization said, adding that women also marched in support in the nearby Mediterranean city of Banias.

In Syria's northern city Aleppo, around 150 students marched in a protest demanding political freedoms on the campus of the main university, human rights defenders in contact with students said.

Baath Party irregulars quickly dispersed the students who chanted "We sacrifice our blood and our soul for you Deraa," in solidarity with the southern city where demonstrations against the Baath Party's iron rule started three-and-a-half weeks ago.

With heavy secret police presence, preachers on the state payroll giving pro-Assad sermons and the Sunni merchant class staying on the sidelines, major protests have not spread to Damascus proper or to Aleppo, denying protesters the critical mass seen in the uprisings which swept Tunisia and Egypt.

A human rights lawyer earlier said security forces had arrested 200 residents in Baida, killing two people.

"They brought in a television crew and forced the men they arrested to shout 'We sacrifice our blood and our soul for you, Bashar' while filming them," the lawyer, who was in contact with residents of the town, told AP.

"Syria is the Arab police state par excellence. But the regime still watches international reaction, and as soon as it senses that it has weakened, it turns more bloody," said the lawyer, who did not want to be further identified.

Assad, who tried to position Syria as self-declared champion of "resistance" to Israel while seeking peace with the Jewish state and accepting offers for rehabilitation in the West, has responded to the protests with a blend of force and vague promises of reform. □



Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak attends a meeting with South Africa's President Jacob Zuma at the presidential palace in Cairo.

Egypt's Mubarak detained, army wins protest respite

By Marwa Awad
Associated Press

CAIRO — Hosni Mubarak was ordered to be detained for 15 days on Wednesday, winning the ruling army generals a respite from protesters suspicious that they were shielding their former commander from investigation. Mubarak, driven from presidential office on February 11 by mass demonstrations against his 30-year rule, was taken to the intensive care unit of a hospital in Sharm el-Sheikh on Tuesday with what state media called a "heart crisis" after questioning by investigators.

Reports differed on how serious the illness was. A doctor appointed by the judiciary was examining Mubarak to

see if he could be moved to another hospital, a medical source said.

"The doctor's check-up is part of the judicial process to determine where to question the ex-president," the source said.

The public prosecutor had summoned and questioned Mubarak, 82, over the killing of protesters, embezzling of public funds and abuse of power. More than 380 protesters were killed in 18 days of demonstrations that led to Mubarak's downfall.

His two sons, Alaa and Gamal, have also been questioned as part of the probe and detained, state television said.

"Former President Hosni Mubarak was detained for 15 days for investigation," state television reported in a brief headline. Judicial sources confirmed the report.

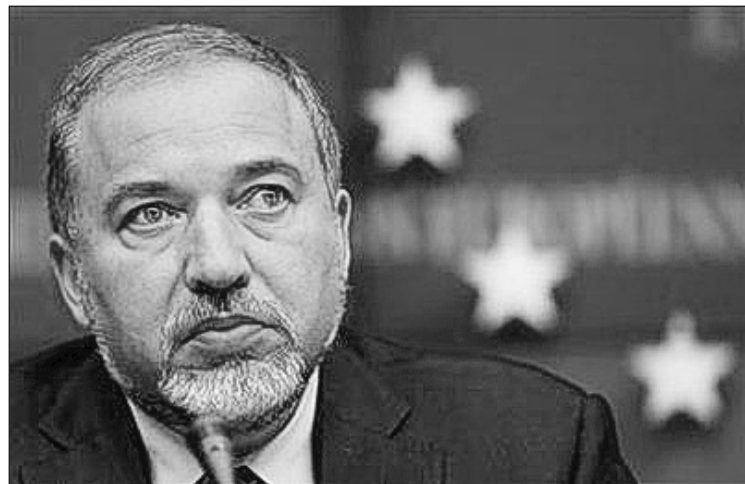
In his first public comment since stepping down, broadcast on Al Arabiya on Sunday, Mubarak denied wrongdoing.

A security source told AP he was likely to remain for security reasons in detention in Sharm el-Sheikh, the Red Sea resort where he has been in internal exile since quitting.

A source cited by the official news agency MENA said the former president would be moved from the hospital to a place of detention once his health permits, but the site had yet to be determined.

Al Jazeera television reported earlier that an army helicopter had arrived in Sharm to take him to Cairo. A security source told AP "the helicopter has left without him because his health is unstable." □

Israel's Lieberman told he may face graft charges



Israel's Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman addresses a news conference at the European Union Council in Brussels.

By Dan Williams
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel's attorney-general told Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman on Wednesday he could be indicted on graft charges that would likely force his resignation and shake up the rightist coalition government.

Lieberman, who denies wrongdoing, will be allowed personally

to plead his case to Attorney-General Yehuda Weinstein before a decision is made whether to file charges including fraud, money laundering and witness tampering, the Justice Ministry said.

Its announcement came as Lieberman, senior coalition partner to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, presided over a convention of his ultranationalist Yisrael Beiteinu (Israel is Our Home) party in Jerusalem.

After a speech that celebrated party ideals such as refusing to cede occupied West Bank land to the Palestinians, demanding loyalty oaths from Israeli Arabs and promoting the interests of secular immigrants from the former Soviet Union such as himself, Lieberman appeared to shrug off the looming legal reckoning.

"I have always acted in accordance with the law and I have no reason to worry," he said.

"After 15 years, I will finally have the chance to prove that I always conducted myself legally."

Yisrael Beiteinu lawmaker Faina Kirschenbaum said it was too soon to say what steps the party would take over Weinstein's decision but that Lieberman would have to quit if indicted.

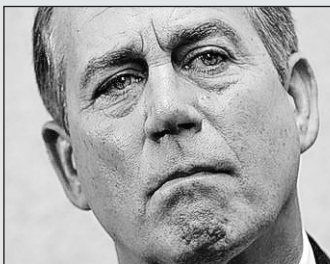
"Let's exhaust the process and then see where we are," Kirschenbaum told AP. □

Over his budget deal

Will the Tea Party oust Boehner?

NEW YORK — Tea Party Nation's Judson Phillips, irate that the House speaker cut a budget deal with Democrats, claims his movement will "fire" the Ohio Republican in 2012.

The last-minute budget deal to avert a government shutdown is popular with the public, and while many analysts see House Speaker



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington.

John Boehner (R-Ohio) as the big winner in the fight, Tea Party leaders disagree. The Tea Party Patriots dismissed Boehner's deal as an inadequate "hollow victory," and Judson Phillips of Tea Party Nation derided Boehner as a "go-along, get-along Republican" who "doesn't have stomach for a fight." Phillips and other Tea Partiers are so upset that they're threatening to unseat Boehner through a 2012 primary challenge. Empty words or real threat?

The Tea Party can and will fire Boehner: After the speaker's repeated, craven caving to the Democrats, "the Tea Party has been sold out," says Michael Snyder at The American Dream. And if Tea Partiers are sincere about their "core issue," government spending, "then they must hold John Boehner accountable and go after his seat during the next primary season." I mean, \$38 billion in cuts? That's not fiscal leadership, it's folding "like a \$20 suit."

"Fire John Boehner America watched Boehner fold like a \$20 suit." □

A Simple Standard:

Don't back anyone who messes with social security

BY John Nichols
Associated Press

President Obama addressed the nation Wednesday night, offering an outline of his approach to budget and deficit issues.

The president, who has already bent too frequently and too far to satisfy the demands of CEOs and bankers who want to balance the budget on the backs of working Americans, is sending the clearest signal yet about whether he is going to give Wall Street what it really wants: the so-called "entitlement reforms" that would begin processes of privatizing Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

He also signaled whether he plans to run for reelection in 2012 as the candidate of the Democratic Party of Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman or as a "post-partisan" centrist who will abandon basic premises of the party and its political base.

The latter prospect worries Congressman Pete DeFazio, who says that Obama needs to "act like a Democrat."

DeFazio is especially concerned that Obama will abandon principles of progressive taxation that demand the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share.

Recalling that the president backed off his 2008 campaign commitment to let the Bush-era tax rates on the wealthy expire in order to cut a December deal with congressional Republicans, DeFazio says: "Remember, the president did run on that, and he did cave on it in December."

DeFazio says congressional Democrats need to put more pressure on Obama to stand on principle against the likes of House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio; Budget Committee chair Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin; and their corporate paymasters. □

Does a new FBI memo prove that UFOs exist?

NEW YORK — The feds release a document with details of three flying saucers purportedly recovered in New Mexico. Is it an old hoax or fresh reason to believe?

The truth may finally be out there. This week, the FBI released a memo from 1950 that appears to confirm an account of "flying saucers" crashing in New Mexico three years after the supposed alien crash in the same state's town of Roswell.

In the document, an FBI agent reports that "an investigator for the Air Forces states that three so-called flying saucers had been recovered in New Mexico." He further claimed that "three bodies of human shape... dressed in a metallic cloth of a very fine texture" had been recovered with the craft. The shady origins of this account have many skeptics howling. So is this memo just parroting a hoax, or fresh evidence that the government covered up a close encounter of the third kind?

This could be the real thing: Maybe all those conspiracy theorists "might not be so crazy after all," says Liza Eckert at Death + Taxes.

Although the "details of the



Unidentified Flying Objects

report are pretty scant," this official FBI memo clearly suggests there were "multiple sightings" of UFOs in Mexico during the late 1940s and 1950s. "Maybe it's not so far-fetched or utterly insane to think there's other life out there."

"Vague FBI documents are clearly all the proof we need that aliens exist."

The memo itself seems suspect: Yes, the FBI document is official, says Steven Novella at ScepticBlog. But it contains "hearsay" rather than proof, and the details sound rather sketchy, complete with UFOs

straight out of "1950s science fiction." What's more, the FBI didn't appear to take it seriously. It was neither classified, nor investigated further.

This sounds more like evidence of the sci-fi mania of the time than the "smoking-gun UFO enthusiasts have been hoping for."

"Guy Hottel document - UFO proof?"

This is not the truth, and it was already out there: Any seasoned UFOlogist would be able to tell you this memo "is not secret, nor is it new," says Benjamin Radford at LiveScience. □

He further claimed that "three bodies of human shape... dressed in a metallic cloth of a very fine texture" had been recovered with the craft.

"Too much Trump?"

Republicans' worst nightmare?

NEW YORK — After topping a new 2012 hopefuls poll, the obstreperous real estate magnate threatens to run as an independent if he doesn't win the GOP nomination.

Donald Trump claimed last week that he's the "Democrats' worst nightmare." But after telling The Wall Street Journal that he would "probably" run as an independent candidate if he does not win the 2012 GOP presidential nomination, Trump is more likely haunting the dreams of prominent Republicans. Many are dismissing the real estate mogul's flirtation with the presidency as a publicity stunt, but Trump tied with Mike Huckabee as the top 2012 GOP contender in a recent poll and Republicans worry that he'll split party votes as an independent candidate. Is Trump trouble for the GOP? Yes. Republi-

cans will be losing sleep over this: The only difference between Trump and Ross Perot, says Ed Morrissey at Hot Air, "seems to be that Perot was a better businessman." A Trump "vanity campaign" would be a "nightmare scenario for Republicans in this cycle" likely handing Obama a second term by "splitting the anti-Obama vote." Isn't there a way the GOP can "nip this in the bud"? "Trump says he'd probably run as independent if he doesn't win Republican nomination" No. Trump is doing great things for the GOP: Au contraire, says Kyle Wingfield at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "Trump is doing Republicans a big favor right now" by dominating media coverage and "taking up all the oxygen." We're still 18 months away from the general election. The fewer opportu-



"Your Fired" Donald Trump.

nities Mitt Romney and other candidates have to "say things they end up regretting, or having to take back or flip-flop on," the better.

"Too much Trump? Not for the other GOP candidates." Blame greedy politicians for Trump's third-party dreams: Trump is flirting with an independent run, says John Ellis at Business Insider, because hungry political consultants are "bombarding" him with optimistic analyses in the hope he'll be their "entire meal ticket for this election cycle." □

Belarus

Opposition to be quizzed over bomb



A woman cries at the entrance to the Oktyabrskaya metro station in Minsk.

MINSK — Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko ordered security forces on Wednesday to question local “political actors” a reference to the opposition over a metro station bomb attack which killed 12 people.

Lukashenko also congratulated security officials for netting the suspects in Monday’s bombing, which also injured 150 people at the station in the center of the capital Minsk. “Today the crime was solved. The state security service KGB and police needed just one day to carry out a brilliant operation and detain the perpetrators,” Lukashenko said as his ex-Soviet republic observed a day of mourning for the victims.

“But we must look into statements made by political actors. Maybe these actors from the ‘fifth column’ will open their cards and point to the one who ordered the attack.” Lukashenko, an autocratic leader who has led Belarus since 1994, frequently uses the terms “political actors” and “the fifth column” to refer to Belarus’ weak, fragmented opposition.

Two of the detained suspects an electrician and a lathe-operator confessed to carrying out the attack and also admitted to two earlier bomb explosions, Lukashenko said.

“The detained criminals have confessed not only to carrying out the terrorist act in the Minsk metro. They are also responsible for the pre-

vious Independence Day and Vitebsk terrorist acts,” Lukashenko said, referring to explosions in 2008 and 2005 respectively.

Probes into those blasts, which caused no fatalities but injured many people, had been unsuccessful and they were dismissed as acts of hooliganism.

Separately, Interior Minister Anatoly Kuleshov told reporters three suspects had been detained in total, all of them Belarusian citizens. He provided no other details.

Officials said CCTV recordings allowed them to identify the sole person who had planted the bomb. The roles of the two others remained unclear.

At another briefing, KGB head Vadim Zaytsev said the bomber, who had used a rare type of explosive substance discovered on the Internet, could be mentally ill.

Lukashenko urged officials to stop “panic” from spreading. This included speculation about the rouble exchange rate and other economic issues.

The blast has coincided with mounting economic difficulties in Belarus, a country of 10 million people.

The central bank last month allowed a de facto 10 percent rouble devaluation on the interbank market and stopped selling foreign currency from its depleted reserves while the government asked Russia for \$3 billion in bailout loans. □

In Nazi war crimes case

Defense asks for trial suspension

By ANDREA M. JARACH
Associated Press

MUNICH — A defense attorney asked a German court to suspend John Demjanjuk’s trial on Nazi war crimes charges Wednesday after giving judges an Associated Press story that uncovered documents showing the FBI believed a key piece of evidence was fake.

The newly declassified 1985 FBI field office report casts doubt on the authenticity of a Nazi ID card showing that Demjanjuk served as a guard at the Sobibor death camp.

Defense attorney Ulrich Busch also asked for the trial to be postponed so he could go to the United States to look through the Demjanjuk material held at the National Archives in Maryland, where the AP found the report.

The AP story shows “prosecutors did not introduce all the possibly exculpatory evidence from the United States



John Demjanjuk arrives at the court building in Munich, southern Germany. The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, 90, is accused of 28,060 counts of accessory to murder for allegedly serving as a guard in the Nazis’ Sobibor death camp.

here,” Busch told the court. Judges had not ruled on the motion when the session ended Wednesday and it was not clear when they would.

Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, a 90-year-old retired Ohio auto-worker, is accused of 28,060 counts of accessory to murder on allegations he served as a guard at Sobibor.

Demjanjuk rejects the charges.

Claims that the card and other evidence against Demjanjuk are Soviet forgeries have repeatedly been made by Demjanjuk’s defense attorneys.

But the FBI report provides the first known confirmation that American investigators had similar doubts. □

In Australia

Briton attempts to cross Indian Ocean in rowboat



British solo ocean rower Roz Savage smiles in Double Bay in Sydney, Australia.

By KRISTEN GELINEAU
Associated Press

SYDNEY — A British woman who survived fierce storms and a near-drowning on her journeys across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans set off from Australia on Wednesday for a rowing adventure across the Indian Ocean with a new

worry on her mind: pirates. Roz Savage rowed out of the port city of Fremantle, in Western Australia, to begin a four-month trip in her 23-foot purple rowboat, Sedna, named after the Inuit goddess of the ocean. If she completes the 4,000-mile trip, Savage will be the first woman to row across three oceans, according to the Ocean Rowing Society, a London-based group that tracks such feats.

Despite her years of experience at sea, the 43-year-old environmentalist acknowledged that this trip which takes her through an area known for pirate attacks has her on edge. She axed her original plan to row to Mumbai, which would have taken her through a pirate-riddled region off the Somali coast, and is now keeping her exact route and final destination a

secret for security reasons.

“It’s something that I think about in the wee hours of the night,” Savage told The Associated Press. “I’ve done everything I can to reduce the risk, so now I try and just tell myself that yeah, there’s nothing more I can do.”

Her pirate preparedness plan included seeking advice from shipping companies in the region and taking with her a good luck charm “Woody,” a tiny toy pirate named for his little wooden peg leg.

Savage uses her long-distance rowing adventures to promote environmental causes and raise awareness of plastic debris polluting the ocean. She hopes to encourage people to use biodegradable trash bags and reusable grocery bags.

Savage has grappled with the dangers of the ocean before. In 2007. □

Pakistan condemns US drone strike



A Predator surveillance drone equipped with Hellfire missiles. Pakistan Wednesday strongly condemned the latest US drone strike in the country's tribal belt, saying such attacks were counterproductive and boosted the cause of militants.

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan missile attacks in Pakistan for the first time in a month, killing six fighters from the Al-Qaeda-linked Haqqani network on the Afghan border, officials said. "Pakistan strongly condemns the drone attack at Angoor

"these drone attacks are creating problems for us."

work on the Afghan border, officials said.

"Pakistan strongly condemns the drone attack at Angoor

Adda today (Wednesday)," the foreign ministry said.

"We have repeatedly said that such attacks are counterproductive and only contribute to strengthen the hands of the terrorists," a statement from the ministry said.

"Drone attacks have become a core irritant in the counter-terror campaign. Pakistan has taken up the matter with the US at all levels," it said.

Pakistani foreign secretary Salman Bashir had lodged a "strong protest" with US Ambassador Cameron Munter, it added.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani also criticised the covert US drone campaign, saying it undermined anti-terror efforts.

Gilani said his government had convinced other countries through diplomatic channels that "these drone attacks are creating problems for us."

Efforts to isolate militants from their tribal support base were being undermined by the strikes in the lawless tribal region bordering Afghanistan, he said in a speech at the federal parliament.

"Under a well thought-out strategy we had separated the tribes from militants, but when drone attacks occur, militants and tribes unite again," Gilani said. □

In northwestern Mexico

16 bodies found in pits



A Mexican Federal Police officer stands guard as members of drug gang "Los Zetas" are shown to the press in Mexico City in 2010.

CULIACAN, Sinaloa — Investigators found at least a dozen skeletal remains in a series of pits in this northwestern Mexican state, while officials in neighboring Sonora pulled four bodies from two pits, authorities said Wednesday.

The discoveries came just hours after federal authorities confirmed that a total of 116 bodies had been recovered from pits in the northern state of Tamaulipas, at the eastern end of the U.S.-Mexico border. The pits in Sinaloa were discovered by a farmer who reported unusual odors coming from a field in the township of Ahome, near the state line with Sonora, state prosecutors' spokesman Martin Gastelum said.

He said that seven pits were found late Tuesday and excavations continued Wednesday. Two sets of remains appeared to belong to women who had been reported missing in October.

The state is the home base of Mexico's most powerful drug gang, the Sinaloa cartel.

The Sonora pits were discovered Wednesday in Nogales, a city across the U.S. border from Nogales, Arizona, Sonora State Police said in a statement. One pit contained the body of a man and the second held the corpses of three men.

All the victims appeared to be about 30 to 35 years old, and the bodies appeared to have been buried in the clandestine graves between 10 and 15 days ago, the statement said. □

In Ivory Coast

Strongman will face charges

By MARCO CHOWN

Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Ivory Coast's president tried to establish order in the days after the country's strongman was arrested, moving him to a secure location and assuring the public that looting and gunfire will cease, and life will soon return to normal.

President Alassane Ouattara said Laurent Gbagbo had been moved out of the Golf Hotel, where he was taken after his capture on Monday. He said Gbagbo will be kept in a villa and that his rights as a former head of state will be respected. A U.N. official said that its peacekeeping forces are providing personal secu-

rity protection for Gbagbo.

"Gbagbo is in a residence under surveillance somewhere in Ivory Coast," Ouattara told reporters at the Golf Hotel.

The justice minister is preparing for possible prosecution of Gbagbo, he said, but gave no details.

"There will be charges against Gbagbo on a national level and an international level," he said. "Reconciliation cannot happen without justice."

The Hague-based International Criminal Court had no immediate comment on Ouattara's statement.

Ouattara also repeated his call against violence and asked fighters to put down their arms so that the country's big-



President Alassane Ouattara meets with commanding officers from the republican forces, at the Golf Hotel in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

gest city, which has been on lockdown while battles raged over the last two weeks, could return to normal.

"We need to secure the country, notably Abidjan," he said. "It is important for the country to emerge from this crisis on top." □

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In Japan

Nuclear plant evacuees demand compensation

By YURI KAGEYAMA

Associated Press

TOKYO — Small business owners and laborers forced to leave their homes and jobs because of radiation leaking from Japan's tsunami-flooded nuclear plant rode a bus all the way to Tokyo on Wednesday to demand compensation from the plant's operator.

People are increasingly growing frustrated with Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s handling of the nuclear crisis, which has progressed fitfully since the March 11 tsunami swamped the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, knocking out important cooling systems. Restoring them will take months.

"I am not asking for anything more than I am entitled to,"

said Ichijiro Ishikawa, 69, who dug roads and tunnels and is now living in a shelter because his home is in a 12-miles evacuation zone around the plant. "I just want my due."

He and about 20 other people who lived and worked near the plant traveled 140 miles southwest to hand-deliver a letter to the president of Tokyo Electric, known as TEPCO. They said talks with the government over how to compensate victims will take too long to get started and they want money now. A few were near tears.

They met near company headquarters with four TEPCO officials who bowed to them in apology. President Masataka Shimizu later apologized dur-

ing a two-hour news conference and pledged to do more, saying cash payments would be readied as soon as possible and the company would do its best to get the plant's reactors under control and stop radiation leaks.

"I offer my apologies for having spread radiation," he said. "I apologize from the bottom of my heart."

Shimizu declined to comment on whether he would resign to show he is taking responsibility for the crisis. He said his job is to deal with it, along with the problems of those evacuated and concerns about the energy supply.

TEPCO earlier said it will give evacuated towns 20 million yen each in "apology money,"



Angry residents forced from their homes near Japan's tsunami-stricken Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant take seat as they meet officials of Tokyo Electric Power Co., the plant's operator, at its headquarters in Tokyo.

and analysts say massive compensation claims could cost it several trillion yen.

The government earlier this

week revised its rating of the severity of the crisis to level 7, the worst possible on an international scale. □



A Yemeni soldier is lifted by anti-government protestors as they shout slogans during a demonstration demanding the resignation of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in Sanaa, Yemen.

In Yemen

Rival factions of military clashes

By AHMED AL-HAJ

Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Gunmen loyal to the government attacked the forces of the Yemeni president's chief rival early Wednesday, killing one person and raising fears that Yemen's weeks of popular unrest could evolve into pitched battles between factions of the divided military.

State media described the attack a case of the government's rapid response forces quelling a "provocative action" by Maj. Gen. Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar, the commander of the 1st Armored Division.

"The leader of the 1st Armored Division is responsible for any attempts that could cause security tensions," the government statement said, raising the level of rhetoric between the two long time rivals.

Yemen's military split on March 17, when President Ali Abdullah Saleh's chief competitor for power, al-Ahmar, abruptly declared his solidarity with the protesters who have been demonstrating for weeks calling for the president's ouster. □

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Pray. Hope. Prepare.



By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
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When I was in Cairo during the Egyptian uprising, I wanted to change hotels one day to be closer to the action and called the Marriott to see if it had any openings. The young-sounding Egyptian woman who spoke with me from the reservations department offered me a room and then asked: “Do you have a corporate rate?” I said, “I don’t know. I work for The New York Times.” There was a silence on the phone for a few moments, and then she said: “Can I ask you something?” Sure. “Are we going to be OK? I’m worried.” I made a mental note of that conversation because she sounded like a modern person, the kind of young woman who would have been in Tahrir Square. We’re just now beginning to see what may have been gnawing at her – in Egypt and elsewhere. Let’s start with the structure of the Arab state. Think about the 1989 democracy wave in Europe. In Europe, virtually every state was like Germany, a homogenous nation, except Yugoslavia. The Arab world is exactly the opposite. There, virtually every state is like Yugoslavia – except Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco. That is to say, in Europe, when the iron fist of communism was removed, the big, largely homogenous states, with traditions of civil society, were able to move relatively quickly and stably to more self-government – except Yugoslavia, a multi-ethnic, multireligious country that exploded into pieces. In the Arab world, almost all these countries are Yugoslavia-like assemblages of ethnic, religious and tribal groups

put together by colonial powers – except Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, which have big homogeneous majorities. So when you take the lid off these countries, you potentially unleash not civil society but civil war. That is why, for now, the relatively peaceful Arab democracy revolutions are probably over. They have happened in the two countries where they were most able to happen because the whole society in Tunisia and Egypt could pull together as a family and oust the evil “dad” – the dictator. From here forward, we have to hope for “Arab evolutions” or we’re going to get Arab civil wars.

The states most promising for evolution are Morocco and Jordan, where you have respected kings who, if they choose, could lead gradual transitions to a constitutional monarchy.

Syria, Libya, Yemen and Bahrain, countries fractured by tribal, ethnic and religious divisions, would have been ideal for gradual evolution to democracy, but it is probably too late now. The initial instinct of their leaders was to crush demonstrators, and blood has flowed. In these countries, there are now so many pent-up grievances between religious communities and tribes – some of which richly benefited from their dictatorships while others were brutalized by them – that even if the iron fist of authoritarianism is somehow lifted, civil strife could easily trample democratic hopes.

Could anything prevent this? Yes, extraordinary leadership that insists on burying the past, not being buried by it. The Arab world desperately needs its versions of South Africa’s Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk – giants from opposing communities who rise above tribal or Sunni-Shiite hatreds to forge a new social compact. The Arab publics have surprised us in a heroic way. Now we need some Arab leaders to surprise us with bravery and vision. That has been so lacking for so long. Another option is

that an outside power comes in, as America did in Iraq, and as the European Union did in Eastern Europe, to referee or coach a democratic transition between the distrustful communities in these fractured states. But I don’t see anyone signing up for that job. Absent those alternatives, you get what you got. □

DISNEY TO OPEN THEME PARK NEAR SHANGHAI.



Cartoonists International: www.nytimes.com/cartoons

Giving doctors orders



By MAUREEN DOWD
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WASHINGTON – When my brother went into the hospital with pneumonia, he quickly contracted four other infections in the intensive care unit. Anguished, I asked a young doctor why this was happening. Wearing a white lab coat and blue tie, he did a show-and-tell. He leaned over Michael and let his tie brush my sedated brother’s hospital gown. “It could be anything,” he said. “It could be my tie spreading germs.” I was dumbfounded. “Then why do you wear a tie?” I asked. He shrugged and left for rounds. Michael died in that ICU. A couple years later, I read reports about how neckties and lab coats worn by doctors and clinical workers were suspected as carriers of deadly germs. Infections kill 100,000 patients in hospitals and other clinics in the U.S. every year. A 2004 study of New York City doctors and clinicians discovered that their ties were contagious with at least one type of infectious microbe. Four years ago, the British National Health System initiated a “bare below the elbow” dress code barring ties, lab coats, jewelry on the hands

and wrists, and long fingernails. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that health care workers, even doctors and nurses, have a “poor” record of obeying hand-washing rules.

A report in the April issue of Health Affairs indicated that one out of every three people suffer a mistake during a hospital stay. I saw infractions of the rules in the ICU where Michael died, but I never called out anyone. I was too busy trying to ingratiate myself with the doctors, nurses and orderlies, irrationally hoping that they’d treat my brother better if they liked us. Commenting on the new report on hospital errors, CNN’s senior medical correspondent, Elizabeth Cohen, instructed viewers to “ask doctors and nurses to wash their hands” if they haven’t. “They sometimes will actually give you a hard time, believe it or not,” she said, “and they say, ‘My gloves are on. I’m clean.’ ‘Well, I didn’t see you put those gloves on. What if you put those on with dirty hands?’” I called Cohen, the author of “The Empowered Patient,” to ask her the best way to confront those taking care of you or family members. She said that you have to get over the “waiter spitting in your soup scenario,” that the medical professionals will somehow avenge themselves, by giving less attention, if you insult them. “There are all sorts of reasons we default to being quiet,” she said. “It is general etiquette not to correct another adult, especially when this is their profession. But when the consequences are so

grave, you have to summon up your courage.” You could say that you are a germaphobe, she suggested, and ask if they could please just indulge you.

Dr. Peter Pronovost of Johns Hopkins has been able to prove in a national program that you can curb infections and reduce mortality rates in ICUs by adhering to checklists, creating accountability and fostering a culture where patients, their families and even nurses and residents feel freer to challenge doctors.

“There’s no doubt that it’s really difficult to question physicians,” Pronovost says. “It’s hard even for me when my wife or my kids are ill. Many clinicians aren’t the most welcoming. They give verbal or nonverbal clues to say, ‘Hey, I have the answer.’ We just need to change the culture. The patient really is the North Star.” I decided to work up my courage to give orders to unmindful doctors by starting with another group that has you at their mercy: cabdrivers.

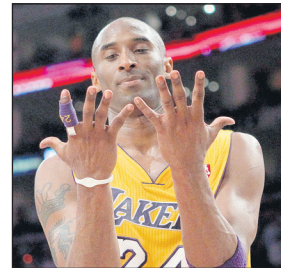
They, too, can put our lives at risk by being heedless. Their constant yammering on cell-phones can be just as dangerous as drunken driving, whether the calls are on handheld or hands-free devices.

As Jane E. Brody noted in The New York Times, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the Orthopaedic Trauma Association has started a campaign against distracted driving. “Orthopedists would do very well, thank you,” she wrote, “without the business generated by the 307,369 crashes that have occurred so far this year.” □

Human Rights demands apology from Bryant

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant looks at his hands after missing a basket after an NBA basketball game against the Utah Jazz in Los Angeles.

Read Page B6



SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Thursday, April 14, 2011

Bonds guilty of obstruction, jury hung on others

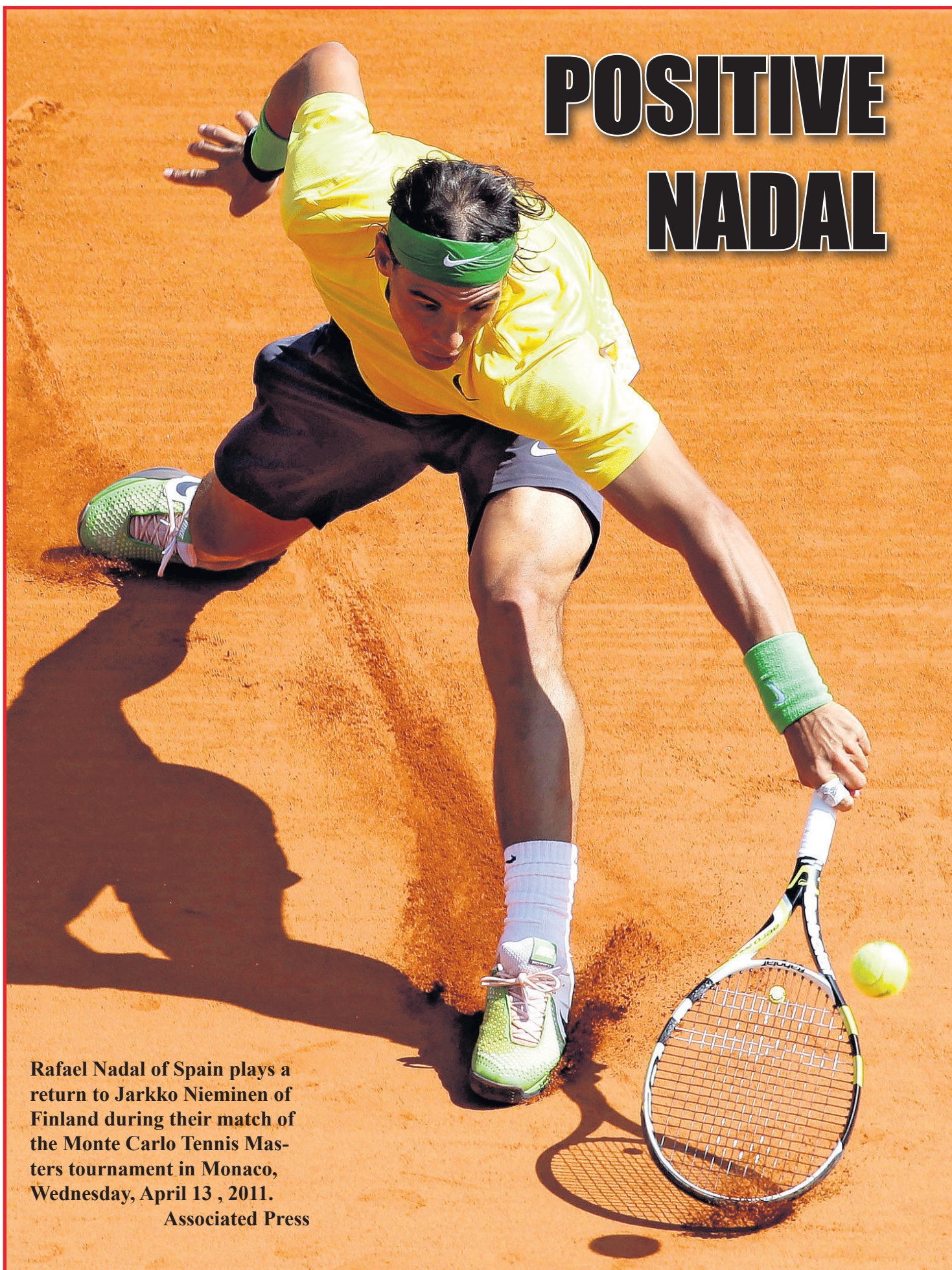


Former baseball player Barry Bonds arrives at federal court as a jury deliberates perjury charges against him on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Former baseball star Barry Bonds was found guilty of obstruction of justice but a jury failed to reach a verdict on three other counts that the home run king lied to a grand jury in 2003 when he specifically denied that he knowingly used steroids and human growth hormone. Following a 12-day trial and almost four full days of deliberation, a jury could not reach a unanimous vote on three of four counts, a messy end to a case that put the slugger in the spotlight for more than three years. Bonds sat stone-faced through the verdict, displaying no emotion. The case also represented the culmination of the federal investigation into the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative steroids ring. Federal prosecutors and the Justice Department will have to decide whether to retry Bonds on the unresolved counts. □

POSITIVE NADAL



Rafael Nadal of Spain plays a return to Jarkko Nieminen of Finland during their match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco, Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

Associated Press

Madrid beats Spurs 1-0, makes semi vs. Barcelona

LONDON (AP) — Real Madrid completed its untroubled progress past Tottenham in the Champions League on Wednesday to set up a semifinal meeting with fierce historic rival Barcelona.

With Madrid coach Jose Mourinho seeking to retain the title he won last season with Inter Milan, Cristiano Ronaldo's 40th goal of the season gave the record nine-time European champions a 1-0 win and a 5-0 aggregate win over Spurs.

Already 4-0 up from the first leg of the quarterfinal, Mourinho's team withstood first-half pressure before goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes fumbled Ronaldo's speculative shot from about 30 meters (yards) over his own line.

Barcelona beat Madrid 5-0 at Camp Nou this season, but Mourinho last season engineered a semifinal win over Barcelona and also won the Champions League with FC Porto in 2004.

"Let's see what happens against Barcelona," said

Mourinho, who has taken Madrid to its first semifinal for eight years. "We have ambition, a semi is a semi and anything can happen."

Madrid now faces Barcelona four times in 18 days, starting Saturday in the Spanish league. The teams then meet in the final of Spain's Copa del Rey before the two-legged Champions League semifinal. "I am not of the opinion that what happens in first game can influence what happens in the second, third or fourth," Mourinho said. "Tomorrow, when I get back to work, I will be thinking about Saturday's game; not Wednesday or the Champions League."

With Barcelona in the way, Mourinho said it was too early to think about the possibility of rounding off his debut season at Madrid with a Champions League final at Wembley against Manchester United or Schalke. But he knows he has to win something.

"I don't think you can say

it's a successful season getting to the final of the Copa del Rey and the semifinals of the Champions League," Mourinho said. "I don't think about the final because it is a hypothetical situation. We respect opponents and do not speak about finals."

As for Tottenham, with its debut campaign in the tournament over, it can now concentrate on closing a three-point gap on the top four in the Premier League to reach the Champions League for a second straight season.

"It is no good doing it once and then not doing it again,"

Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp said.

"We have to improve and be there next year too."

Despite three hopeful calls for first-half penalties and a

goal by Gareth Bale ruled out for offside, Tottenham never looked like becoming the first team to recover a four-goal

"We have ambition, a semi is a semi and anything can happen."



Tottenham Hotspur's goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes watches a shot from Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo go into the net during their Champions League quarterfinal second leg soccer match at White Hart Lane, London, Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

Associated Press

deficit in Europe's premier club competition.

"We lost it to a better team but we're disappointed to go out," Bale said.

Madrid defender Sergio Ramos almost scored with a header to the top right corner eight minutes before halftime, but Gomes leaped to keep it out and Ronaldo put the rebound into the side netting.

Gomes also made a full-length

save from a long-range shot by substitute Kaka, but his performance was marred by the latest high-profile blunder of his time with Spurs.

Tottenham's raucous fans were subdued by the goal but stayed to the end to give a standing ovation to a side that beat Italian powers Inter Milan and AC Milan to surprisingly be among the last eight clubs. □

Schalke ousts Inter Milan, reaches CL semis

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany (AP) — Schalke completed a surprising rout of title holder Inter Milan, winning 2-1 on Wednesday to reach its first Champions League semifinal.

Schalke advanced 7-3 on aggregate and will play Manchester United in the semifinals, with the first leg at home on April 26.

With Schalke holding a massive advantage following its 5-2 trouncing of Inter in Milan last week, Raul Gonzalez all but sealed the club's passage into the semis when he scored in the 44th minute. Thiago Motta equalized for Inter in the 49th, but Benedikt Hoewedes scored the winner in the 81st for the surprising German side.

"What can you say, we really won it last week," Schalke coach Ralf Rangnick said. "We defended very well tonight, we allowed maybe two chances. We could have won (bigger) again if you count all the chances."

Inter had most of the possession and seven corners but could not translate the momentum into more chances or goals in the first half.

Schalke was happy to sit back and wait for Inter's mistakes and it was just such a situation that led to the first goal. Jose Manuel Jurado slipped the ball through a huge opening in Inter's defense and Raul easily rounded Julio Cesar to slot home, raising his Champions League record tally to 71 goals.

"It was difficult to get back into it after we conceded that late goal in the first half," Inter coach Leonardo said. "We tried to respond but we didn't succeed. ...



Schalke's Benedikt Hoewedes celebrates after scoring during the second leg quarterfinal Champions League soccer match between Schalke 04 and FC Internazionale Milano in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

Associated Press

The pace was relatively slow and we didn't manage to step it up. My compliments to Schalke and to Raul."

Leonardo inserted striker Goran Pandev for Dejan Stankovic at the start of the second half and Inter replied four minutes later, after another corner. Lucio headed down the ball to the far post and Thiago Motta slotted it home.

Wesley Sneijder nearly scored for Inter in the 75th, but curled his free kick just wide.

Schalke used another counterattack to get the winner, with Raul sending a long ball behind Inter's

defense for defender Howedes to drive past Julio Cesar.

"We showed in both matches how much potential we have in our team," said Schalke defender Christoph Metzelder, who played with a face mask to protect a broken nose. "We wanted to win, we were not happy with 1-1."

Schalke has had success against Inter before, beating the Italian side in 1997 to lift the UEFA Cup, its last title. The next year, it was eliminated by Inter in the quarterfinals of the same competition.

"Against Manchester, we are clearly outsiders but who knows, if everything comes together maybe we can even reach the final," Rangnick said. "But first we have to concentrate on the Bundesliga."

Rangnick has been in charge for three weeks, after the firing of Felix Magath.

Schalke is also in the final of the German Cup, having beaten Bayern Munich under Magath.

Facing an almost impossible task of having to win by four goals away from home, Inter tried to get into the match quickly and Sneijder sent a shot from 20 meters (yards) in the fifth minute that was easily mastered by Manuel Neuer.

Sneijder caught Neuer on the wrong foot in the 13th but shot wide.

Raul got off a clean header in the 17th but Julio Cesar was well placed to catch the ball.

Stankovic, who scored a spectacular goal in the first leg, tested Neuer again from more than 20 meters but the Schalke goalkeeper punched the shot away. □

Rafael Nadal beats Nieminen at Monte Carlo Masters

MONACO (AP) — Rafael Nadal began his bid for a seventh straight Monte Carlo Masters title with a comfortable 6-2, 6-2 win over Jarkko Nieminen on Wednesday.

The top-ranked Spaniard, who next faces Richard Gasquet, did not face a single break point against the Finn and extended his winning record at the clay-court tournament to 33 matches.

"Today was a positive start," the 24-year-old Nadal said. "I think I played better than what I practiced the last days, so that's always positive."

A year-ending loss to Roger Federer in the final of the ATP World Tour Finals, and consecutive losses to Novak Djokovic in recent Masters finals at the Sony Ericsson Open and BNP Paribas Open mean Nadal has not won anything since the Japan Open. Still, Nadal remains the big favorite to clinch his 44th career title, and his 19th Masters tournament, even though he said he needs a bit more time to get his feeling back on clay. "I think I needed a few more days. It is just the first match. It is positive the way I played with the forehand," he said. "It was positive the way that my serve worked. It wasn't bad. I have to play a little bit more aggressive with the backhand."

Nadal remains unbeaten on



Jarkko Nieminen of Finland serves the ball to Rafael Nadal of Spain during their match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco, Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

(AP Photo/Lionel Cironneau)

clay since losing to Robin Soderling in the fourth round of the French Open two years ago. Nadal was undefeated on clay last year, winning two other Masters titles in Rome and Madrid, and his fifth French Open.

Nadal is 7-0 against Gasquet and beat him in the 2005 semifinals on the way to his first Monte Carlo title.

"Playing him on clay is very tough.

He dropped very few sets here," said the 13th-seeded Gasquet, who beat Guill-

ermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain 6-2, 6-1. "What I must do is stay relaxed and try to play without hesitation and not be afraid to go for my shots.

"This is all very well, but when you're on the court, you're confronted with reality." Gasquet has lost three times on clay to five-time French Open champion Nadal.

"He always plays at 1,000 percent. He will not make the mistake of underestimating his opponent," Gasquet said. "Because we played many times, he knows me, and

sometimes I pushed him to a third set."

Third-seeded Andy Murray finally won a match, beating Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-4.

The 23-year-old Murray had failed to win a set since losing to Djokovic in the Australian Open final, going out early in Rotterdam and at the Masters tournaments in Indian Wells and Key Biscayne.

"I played great, dominated the match from the second, third game. I was a wee bit tentative towards the end, which

I think is probably natural," Murray said. "I hit the ball really well, made him do a lot of running, was able to dictate a lot of points with my forehand — especially from the first and second shot in the rally."

Murray's early exit from Key Biscayne meant he had more time to prepare for the clay-court season, and the Briton clearly felt the benefits.

"(I) hit the ball really clean, wasn't mis-hitting anything, moved really well. I like clay. I think I can have good results on it if I play like I did today," said Murray, who has never been beyond the quarterfinals of the French Open.

Murray next plays 16th-seeded Gilles Simon of France, who defeated Albert Montanes of Spain 6-3, 6-4.

Also, fourth-seeded David Ferrer of Spain easily beat Feliciano Lopez 6-2, 6-0, and No. 8 Gael Monfils of France defeated Daniel Gimeno-Traver of Spain 7-5, 6-2.

Ferrer, who next meets big-serving Milos Raonic of Canada, broke his opponent's serve five times, while Lopez had six double-faults.

Seventh-seeded Jurgen Melzer of Austria, No. 9 Nicolas Almagro of Spain, No. 11 Viktor Troicki of Serbia and No. 15 Marin Cilic of Croatia and also advanced to the third round. □

Adam Scott looks to defend Texas Open title



Texas Open defending champion Adam Scott talks with the media during a news conference at the Texas Open golf tournament, Wednesday, April 13, 2011, in San Antonio. The tournament begins Thursday. Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Adam Scott may be having a career reawakening headed into this weekend's Texas Open.

The 30-year-old Australian won the event last year when it was played for the first time at the TPC San Antonio Oaks Course.

Since then, he has jumped from 30th to 17th in the latest world rankings and is coming off a strong performance at the Masters.

He wound up with a final-round 67 at Augusta and a birdie at 16 that wasn't enough to hold off Charl Schwartzel's four-for-four birdie finish for the win. □

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Fleury stops 32

Pens take Game 1 from Lightning

By JOHN WAWROW

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Alex Kovalev and Arron Asham scored third-period goals 18 seconds apart and Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 32 shots to lead the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 3-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning in the first-round playoff opener on Wednesday night. Chris Kunitz sealed the win with an empty-net goal in the final minute in the Penguins' first postseason game in their new arena. Brooks Orpik, who had two assists, opened the game with a heavy and clean check on Lightning star Steven Stamkos. Fleury made spectacular saves — including a blind stop on former Penguins forward Ryan Malone in the first period — and shut down the Lightning's high-powered offense. Fleury earned his fifth playoff shutout, one short of tying Tom Barrasso's franchise record.

The Lightning were held scoreless following a regular season in which they finished second in the Eastern Conference with 247 goals. Fifth-seeded Tampa Bay is in the playoffs for the first time since 2007.

The fourth-seeded Penguins seized the momentum by outshooting the Lightning 18-7 in the second period, and carried it into the third in the first playoff meeting between the teams. Kovalev made it 1-0 at 6:05 of the third on a bit of a broken play after he was tripped in the corner by Tampa Bay's Pavel Kubina. With the crowd booing the lack of a penalty call, Penguins forward James Neal got the puck at the left point and fed Kovalev, who one-timed a shot shortly after he got back up. With the arena still buzzing, Asham doubled the lead with an end-to-end rush. Carrying the puck up the right wing, Asham faked a shot before cutting around the net to draw goalie Dwayne Roloson out of position. Asham's first attempt to wrap in the puck failed, but he converted on a second chance by flipping the puck into the open left side.

With much of the focus on the Lightning's offensive stars — Stamkos, Vincent Lecavalier and Martin St. Louis — and the Penguins playing without Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin, the goalies stole the spotlight.

Fleury kept the Penguins in the game during the first period, when the Lightning had a 9-2 shot advantage seven minutes in. He made a right pad save at 2:10 on Malone's attempt to sneak in a shot behind a crowd during a scramble in front. □

Haren pitches one-hitter as Angels beat Indians

ANAHEIM, California (AP)

— Dan Haren pitched a one-hitter as the Los Angeles Angels beat Cleveland 2-0 in the American League on Tuesday to end the Indians' eight-game winning streak.

Haren (3-0) struck out eight and walked two in his third major league shutout. He allowed only Shin-Soo Choo's single to center field in the fourth inning.

Peter Bourjos and Mark Trumbo homered for the Angels off Fausto Carmona (0-2). Los Angeles won with just four hits.

Haren threw 125 pitches in his 12th complete game in 225 career starts.

On Saturday night, Haren also threw 13 pitches in a perfect 14th inning against Toronto and got credit for the Angels' 6-5 victory. That relief appearance ended his string of 203 consecutive starts.

The Indians' winning streak was their longest since a 10-game string in August 2008.

Tigers 5, Rangers 4

In Detroit, Venezuelan slugger Miguel Cabrera hit a bases-loaded single in the ninth inning as Detroit beat Texas.

After Texas leveled the score at 4 in the eighth with a run off reliever Joaquin Benoit, Jose Valverde (1-0) worked a scoreless ninth to get the win. The Rangers were trying to start 10-1 for just the second time in team history.

Texas' Josh Hamilton broke his upper right arm sliding headfirst into the plate in the



Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Dan Haren pitches against the Cleveland Indians during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Tuesday, April 12, 2011. Haren pitched a one-hitter to lead the Angels to a 2-0 win.

Associated Press

first inning. He's expected to miss six to eight weeks.

Rays 3, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Darnell McDonauld hit a home run and David Price pitched solidly for 7 2-3 innings as Tampa Bay beat Boston in a matchup of the AL's two worst teams.

Price (1-2) allowed five hits before leaving the game with runners at first and second. Reliever Joel Peralta ended the eighth by getting Jed Lowrie to fly out.

Kyle Farnsworth worked a perfect ninth for his second save.

Lowrie hit an RBI double in the sixth for the Red Sox, who were coming off two wins over the New York Yankees. With the loss, Boston (2-9) matched its worst start in club history.

Mariners 3, Blue Jays 2

In Seattle, rookie Michael Pineda took a shutout into the eighth inning for his first major league victory, helping Seattle beat Toronto.

The 22-year-old Pineda gave up just five hits and struck out seven in 7 1-3 innings. It was

his second career start.

Ryan Langerhans hit a two-run homer in the third off Ricky Romero (1-1).

Brandon League pitched the ninth for his second save.

White Sox 6, Athletics 5, 10 innings

In Chicago, Alexei Ramirez hit his second homer of the game with two outs in the 10th inning to lift Chicago past Oakland.

Ramirez also hit a three-run shot in the second inning and scored a run after drawing a walk in the sixth.

Chicago reliever Chris Sale (2-0) picked up the win with two shutout innings.

Daric Barton had four hits and scored a run, and Kevin Kouzmanoff hit a two-run homer for Oakland.

Japanese star Hideki Matsui, who entered the game hitting .182, had three hits and drove in two runs.

Twins 4, Royals 3, 10 innings In Minneapolis, Danny Valencia hit a bases-loaded single with one out in the 10th inning to give Minnesota the win over Kansas City. □



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Activists demand apology for Bryant's gay slur

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A leading gay-rights organization has demanded a full apology from Kobe Bryant for apparently using a derogatory gay term in frustration over a referee's call during the Lakers' game on Tuesday night.

The NBA is investigating the actions of the five-time NBA champion guard, who cursed and appeared to use a common homophobic slur when referee Bennie Adams called a technical foul on him in the third quarter of Los Angeles' win over the Spurs. After Bryant issued a statement Wednesday, saying his words came out of frustration and shouldn't

be taken literally, the Human Rights Campaign demanded an apology from Bryant rather than an explanation.

The HRC also called on the Lakers to condemn Bryant's slur.

"For better or worse, Kobe Bryant has created a teachable moment for the millions of fans — many of them young — who saw that outburst on the floor," HRC President Joe Solmonese said. "And the right thing to do now is to apologize and take responsibility for suggesting that the worst thing you can do to someone is to scream out a gay slur.

This kind of homophobic outburst has dangerous consequences, even more so when it comes from a celebrity in the national spotlight."

Bryant's words and actions were captured by TNT's cameras during the network's national broadcast of the Lakers' regular-season home finale.

Bryant punched his chair before taking a seat on the bench

and threw a towel on the court near his feet in frustration after picking up his fourth foul in the third quarter.

He got his 15th technical of the season for arguing the call, one shy of the cumulative trigger for a one-game NBA suspension.

"What I said last night should not be taken literally. My actions were out of frustration

during the heat of the game, period," Bryant said in a statement issued through the Lakers.

"The words expressed do NOT reflect my feelings towards the gay and lesbian communities and were NOT meant to offend anyone."

Gay-rights groups issued statements denouncing Bryant's actions.

Jarrett Barrios, president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said slurs are unacceptable.

"Professional sports players need to set a better example for young people who use words like this on the playground and in our schools, creating a climate of intolerance and hostility," Barrios said.

"The LA Lakers have a re-

Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant celebrates after making a three-point basket against the San Antonio Spurs during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, April 12, 2011.

Associated Press

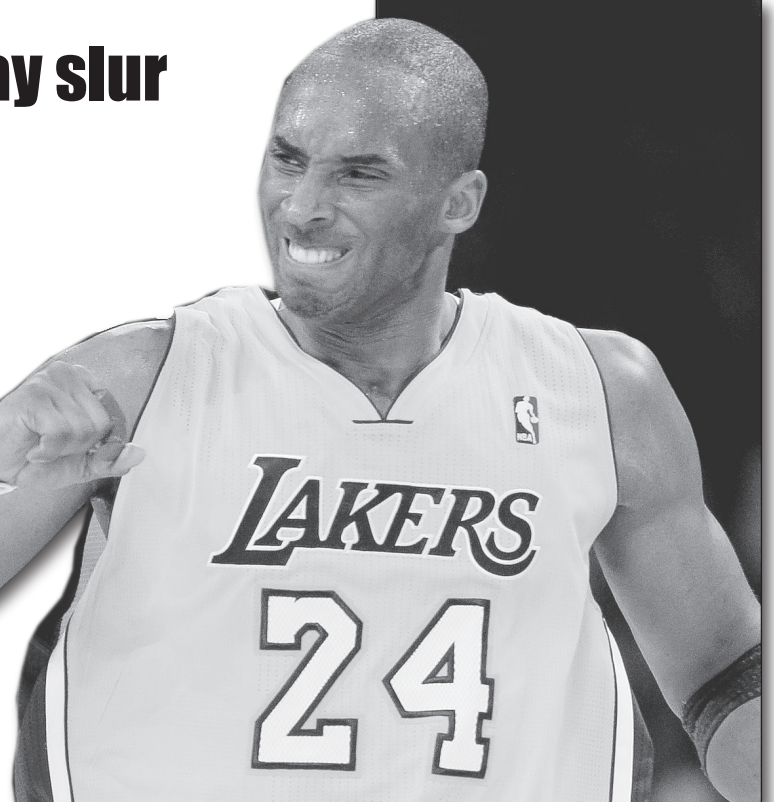
sponsibility to educate their fans about why this word is unacceptable."

Bryant has edged right up to the line of serious NBA discipline this season, ranking second only to Orlando's Dwight Howard in technical fouls — mostly for arguing with referees.

Bryant was called for an additional technical foul that was rescinded Monday. □

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Judge OKs school 'boobies' bracelets



The American Civil Liberties Union

By MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Breast cancer fundraising bracelets that proclaim “I heart boobies!” are neither lewd nor vulgar, and can’t be banned by public school officials who find them offensive, a federal judge in Pennsylvania said Tuesday in a preliminary ruling.

The ruling is a victory for two girls suspended for defying a ban on their middle school’s Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

“The bracelets ... can reasonably be viewed as speech designed to raise awareness of breast cancer and to reduce stigma associated with openly discussing breast health,” U.S. Judge Mary McLaughlin wrote in a 40-page ruling issued Tuesday. She added that the school district had not shown the bracelets would be disruptive in school.

The American Civil Liberties Union, representing the girls, had sued to overturn the ban and stop the school from punishing their clients. McLaughlin issued a temporary injunction Tuesday that bars the Easton Area School District from banning the \$4 rubber bracelets until the case goes to trial.

An attorney for the school district did not immediately return a message seeking comment on the ruling.

The judge heard testimony from the students and school administrators in December.

Skilled Healthcare says may sell itself, shares up

CALIFORNIA - Nursing home operator Skilled Healthcare Group Inc said late Monday that it was exploring strategic alternatives, including a potential sale of the company, sending its shares up about 14 percent to a year high.

The company’s real estate portfolio could be the key in attracting an offer, with at least two analysts valuing the company at \$17 per share.

“The company’s 77 percent ownership in its portfolio represents a very attractive asset that management could monetize, and with recent real estate deals in the skilled nursing industry we believe the time is right to do so,” RBC Capital Markets analyst Frank Morgan wrote in a note to clients.

In December 2010, HCP Inc bought most of privately held HCR ManorCare Inc’s real estate assets for about \$6.1 billion, while Health Care REIT Inc said in February that it would buy the real estate assets Genesis Healthcare for \$2.4 billion. □

U.S. reports drop in AIDS-related cancers

WASHINGTON - Cases of AIDS-related cancers have decreased among people with HIV in the United States, but other types of cancer are on the rise in this group, a new study has found.

Three cancers Kaposi’s sarcoma, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and invasive cervical cancer are among the diseases included in the criteria that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention uses to determine whether a person with HIV has developed AIDS.

The study, by researchers from the U.S. National Cancer Institute and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that these AIDS-defining cancers decreased threefold, from 34,000 cases between 1991 and 1995 to about 10,000 cases between 2001 and 2005.

They attributed the decrease to the introduction in 1996 of highly active antiretroviral



Dr. Eric A. Engels

therapy, which improves immune function, reduces risk of progression to AIDS and greatly improves survival among people infected with HIV.

But the study also found that the total number of all other types of cancers in people with HIV tripled, from about 3,000 cases between 1991 and 1995 to about 10,000 cases between 2001 and 2005.

The findings were published online April 11 in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

“Our study observed striking

increases for a number of malignancies related to cancer risk factors that are known to be prevalent in this population, such as smoking and infection with cancer-causing viruses,” study author Meredith S. Shiels, from the division of cancer epidemiology and genetics at the National Cancer Institute, said in a journal news release.

“We also observed increases for nearly all other cancers, which is what one might expect for an aging population.” Senior investigator Dr. Eric A. Engels, a colleague of Shiels, said in the release that “the changing number and types of cancer for people with HIV/AIDS highlights the need for research focusing on the specific cancer prevention needs of this population, including smoking cessation, treatment of hepatitis B and C viral infections and prevention and screening for HPV-related cancers.” □

U.S. rolls the dice on pharmaceutical drug innovation

By Jeremy Hsu

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Pharmaceutical drug innovations have dried up in the U.S. over the past decade despite the government and private industry investing billions of dollars. Now federal officials hope a proposed \$1 billion center can translate basic science discoveries into a new generation of drugs and therapies, if it survives the budget cuts in Congress.

Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and former head of the Human Genome Project, emphasized that the new center would not compete with pharmaceutical companies, during a teleconference on Feb. 23. It would reduce the risks and uncertainty for the most promising drug candidates before handing them off to companies.

“This is not an effort to turn NIH into a drug development company,” Collins said. “The idea is to work with centers and institutes to move targets just far along for them to be attractive for commercial investment.”

Pharmaceutical companies spent about \$45.8 billion to “discover and develop new medicines” in 2009, according to the PhRMA industry website. But most of that money goes toward the late-stage human clinical trials, sales and marketing rather than rolling the dice on risky drug candidates, said Lesa Mitchell, vice president of advancing innovations for the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, Mo.

“Nobody wants to be in the business of Las Vegas science,” Mitchell told InnovationNewsDaily.

Mitchell speaks from experi-



Dr. Francis Collins

ence.

She spent 20 years of her career in global executive roles for pharmaceutical companies such as Aventis and Quintiles before joining the Kauffman Foundation on its nonprofit mission to advance entrepreneurship. □

Microsoft explains phone software update delay



The new Windows Phone 7 is seen at the Windows Phone 7 launch press conference in New York

SEATTLE – Microsoft Corp explained the delay in updating its new phone software on Wednesday, partly blaming handset manufacturers for the problem.

Windows Phone 7, launched last October as Microsoft's attempt to catch up with Apple Inc and Google Inc in the smartphone market, was well received, but criticized for

lack of some basic functions such as cut and paste.

Microsoft initially said an update to the software would be available early in 2011, but it has not yet been implemented for many users. "We had expected it to be earlier than now," Joe Belfiore, head of Microsoft's Windows phone program, said at a software developer conference in Las Vegas on Wednesday.

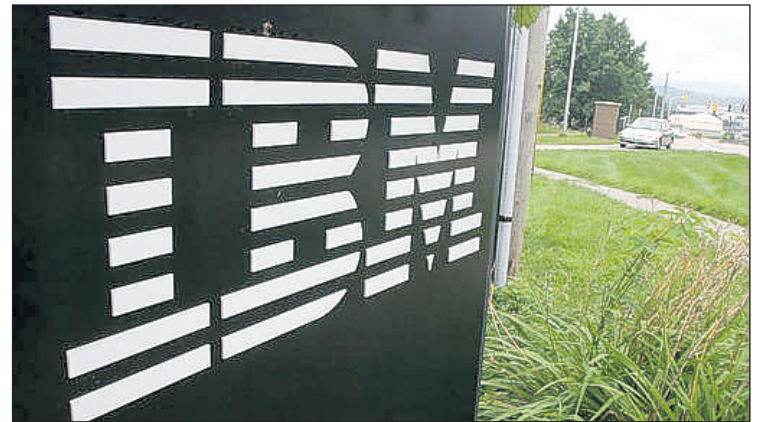
Belfiore said the company had started the update, but ran into problems on some newly manufactured phones that would not function properly afterward. He did not name any manufacturers involved. Samsung Electronics, HTC Corp and LG Electronics are the main handset makers of Windows phones.

Once the company found the problems, it overhauled its update procedure, said Belfiore.

"We felt it would be better to be a little bit patient, make sure that when we get updates out that they would happen reliably, and unfortunately that caused a delay in getting things out," he said.

Belfiore said he was now "optimistic" that there will not be similar problems with future updates. A more comprehensive update, code-named Mango, will be available later this year, he said. Microsoft still has only a 4 percent share of the worldwide smartphone software market, according to research firm Gartner, but it is expected to be a major player once its deal to provide the operating system for leading handset maker Nokia takes effect. A Nokia developer on-stage at the Las Vegas conference said there was still no date for when the new Microsoft-powered phones will hit the market. □

IBM training computers to predict traffic



IBM Big Blue to Sponsor School, Mold Future Employees.

By JORDAN ROBERTSON
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO – Traffic websites, with their color-coded maps of clogged streets and freeways, are good at telling commuters when congestion is already awful. But what if they could know not only where you drive, but if the route is going to be bad today, and warned you ahead of time? A team of researchers at IBM Corp. are working on a system that would do just that. They've combined sophisticated analytics software with a network of sensors the state has already embedded in roadways throughout California. With the help of a database of past traffic tie-ups, they say they can predict when they'll happen in the future. IBM, which worked with the state Department of Transportation

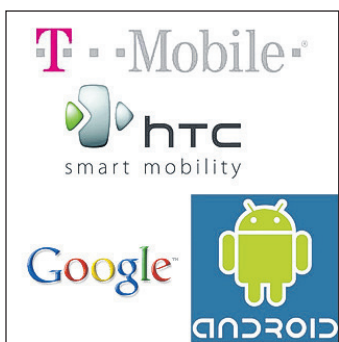
and the California Center for Innovative Transportation at the University of California, Berkeley, can't tell you when an accident is going to happen yet. But John Day, an IBM manager, says that's a natural extension of the work his team has been doing, and one day could well be something they could reasonably infer from the data they're collecting.

For now, the researchers are showing that they can go a step beyond what's available on regional traffic websites, which report current conditions.

The most that might tell you is that your drive is already backed up.

"Instead of just showing them look how ugly this looks, or what it looked like five minutes ago. □

T-Mobile rolls out unlimited (but throttled) data plans



Smartphones HTC, Google & T-Mobile

By Phil Hornshaw
Associated Press

Customers of T-Mobile can get their hands on some hot new plans the carrier has just made official, allowing for some (mostly) unlimited data service on smartphones.

Engadget has the story, which states that T-Mobile is offering two new plan versions that carry unlimited data, and go as low as \$60 a month. "Even More" customers those that buy a subsidized device with a T-Mobile contract get the \$79.99 plan, while "Even More Plus" users -- those

that brought their own phone when they joined T-Mobile get it for \$59.99. There's also a \$5 surcharge if you use a BlackBerry.

The plan allows for unlimited domestic calling and text messaging, and unlimited data. But that really only goes to the 2GB per month mark. After that, T-Mobile says "data speeds will be reduced for the remainder of that bill cycle." Your data is unlimited, but if you're a power-user who's slowing up the network with all your traffic, T-Mobile reserves the right to rein you in. Still, it's nice to see a mobile carrier offering unlimited data plans at all. Sprint (S) still offers its "Simply Everything" plan for \$99.99 a month, but AT&T (T) has all but eliminated its unlimited data plan, and rumor has it, Verizon's (VZ) unlimited data offering is not long for this world either.

If you're interested in step-

ping into a T-Mobile unlimited plan, though, the time is now. □

Gigabyte S1080 is a Windows 7 tablet with 10.1-inch 1024 x 600m pixel

By Geoff Duncan
Associated Press

Although Apple's iPad 2 is by far the dominant player in the tablet market, there's no mistaking that competition is heating up as a growing number of companies enter the fray. Although most consumer attention has focused on Android tablets from the likes of Samsung and Motorola as well as RIM's forthcoming PlayBook

Taiwanese motherboard manufacturer Gigabyte is hoping to get into the game with a new twist: according to a company senior VP, the company is planning two new Android tablets this summer and one of them will be able



Gigabyte planning dual-boot Windows/Android tablets

to dual boot into Windows. Gigabyte is already in the Windows tablet market with the S1080, an Intel Atom-powered tablet with a 10.1-inch 1,024 by 600 capacitive touchscreen display that runs Windows 7 Home Premium and packs 2 GB of RAM along with a 320 GB hard drive. However, the S1080 faces a few hurdles to adoption: first, Windows 7 might run

a ton of software, but it isn't particularly usable on a tablet. Second, the S1080 weighs nearly 2 pounds, making it very "big boned" as tablets go. Gigabyte's dual-boot tablet is tentatively scheduled to ship in time for the end-of-year holidays, and will be able to start up using either a version of Android (Gigabyte hasn't decided which) or Windows 7, with the aim of giving users both the flexibility and casual Internet capabilities of Android, or access to a plethora of business-oriented software like Microsoft Office via Windows. The tablets will be based on Intel Atom processors. □



A sign is seen outside the JPMorgan office in Los Angeles, California.

JPMorgan

Q1 profit up 67 %; can it be repeated?

By Clare Baldwin

Associated Press

NEW YORK – JPMorgan Chase & Co drastically cut the amount of money set aside for bad loans, allowing it to boost first-quarter profit by two-thirds but prompting questions about whether the results can be repeated. The bank's book of consumer loans shrank by 10 percent in the quarter, and loans to corporate customers did not grow enough to make up for it. The No. 2 U.S. bank also took \$1.75 billion of charges linked to collecting payments on bad mortgages and foreclosures, and said an upcoming settlement with regulators over mortgage servicing abuses could force it to hire as many 3,000 people. The quarterly results were the first from a major Wall Street bank, and although they beat expectations, they raised investor concerns about lending profits. □

EU tells Portugal

Quit chasing votes and face bailout facts

BRUSSELS – Portuguese politicians need to quit electioneering and agree radical changes to the country's economy in exchange for an international bailout, top EU figures said Wednesday.

With talks underway in Lisbon on the debt rescue, European Commission head Jose Manuel Barroso said he hoped party leaders "will assume their responsibilities" to the public finances and their European Union partners.

Portugal goes to early polls on June 5 after the government fell last month when parliament rejected its latest austerity plan, forcing Lisbon to bow to market pressure and seek an EU-IMF bailout.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, who chairs the Eurgroup of finance ministers from the 17 nations that share the euro currency, warned the rival parties to concentrate on what needs to



European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso gives a press conference at the European Union headquarters in Brussels.

be done to win EU and International Monetary Fund approval. "The national honour of Portugal ... should push the principal Portuguese parties to turn their focus away from the election campaign and back towards national and European demands," he said in Luxembourg.



Obama pivots, eyes Medicare changes, tax increases

By JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Forcefully rejecting Republican budget cutting plans, President Barack Obama on Wednesday proposed lowering the nation's future deficits by \$4 trillion over a dozen years with a package that includes reducing spending on politically sensitive health care programs and raising taxes on high-earning Americans.

The president recommended trimming the growth of Medicare spending, cuts in defense, an overhaul of the tax system to eliminate many loopholes enjoyed by individuals and corporations, and an end to Bush-era tax cuts for wealthier

Americans.

"We have to live within our means, we have to reduce our deficit, and we have to get back on a path that will allow us to pay down our debt," Obama said in a combative speech at George Washington University.

As much a policy speech as it was a political address, Obama laid the blame for the rising debt on the spending increases and tax cuts enacted during the presidency of George W. Bush and the recession that struck in late 2007. "We lost our way," he said.

Ensuring that the nation's fiscal troubles will be at the center of the 2012 presidential election, Obama drew sharp contrasts with a Republican



President Barack Obama outlines his fiscal policy during an address at George Washington University in Washington, Wednesday.

plan that cuts about \$5.8 trillion in spending over the next decade and which the White House says unfairly singles out middle-class taxpayers, older adults and the poor. He pointedly noted that the GOP

plan has already been embraced by some Republican presidential candidates. Such cuts, he said, "paint a vision of our future that's deeply pessimistic."

"Their vision," he added, "is less about reducing the deficit than it is about changing the basic social compact in America."

Obama previewed his proposals to congressional leaders Wednesday morning. And even before he delivered his speech, top Republicans were pushing back.

"If we're going to resolve our differences and do something meaningful, raising taxes will not be part of that," House Speaker John Boehner declared shortly after his White House meeting.

This new clash comes just a week after the president announced he would seek reelection. For the past two months, Obama has been arguing for protection of his core

spending priorities, including education and innovation. His turn to deficit reduction reflects the pressures he faces in a divided Congress and with a public increasingly anxious about the nation's debt, now exceeding \$14 trillion.

"Any serious plan to tackle our deficit will require us to put everything on the table, and take on excess spending wherever it exists in the budget," the president said. To help enforce budget discipline, the president called for resurrecting a spending cap that would be triggered if the nation's debt did not stabilize and begin to decline by 2014. The cap would not apply to Social Security, low-income programs or Medicare benefits. □

Bank regulators settle with mortgage lenders

By Dave Clarke

Associated Press

WASHINGTON – U.S. bank regulators announced settlements on Wednesday with the largest home lenders over allegations of shoddy foreclosure practices, but the pacts did not include financial penalties.

The banks agreed to compensate borrowers who were wrongly foreclosed upon and to overhaul their mortgage operations. Fines are to be determined later.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve and the Office of Thrift Supervision reached the settlements with 14 of the largest U.S. financial institutions, including Bank of America Corp, Wells Fargo & Co, JPMorgan Chase and Citigroup Inc.

Federal regulators and state attorneys general have been investigating bank mortgage practices that came to light last year, including the use of "robo-signers" to sign hundreds of unread foreclosure documents a day.

"Our enforcement actions are intended to fix what is broken, identify and compensate borrowers who suffered financial harm, and ensure



Police tape marked as a Foreclosure Free Zone is seen outside the foreclosed home of Marie Elie in Elmont, New York.

a fair and orderly mortgage servicing process going forward," acting OCC head John Walsh said in a statement.

Mortgage lenders still face a probe by a group of state attorneys general and other federal agencies, including the U.S. Justice Department.

The bank regulators said their probe found a series of problems including servicers filing affidavits in court where an employee vouched for personally knowing the details to be true when they did not.

The banks neither admitted or denied the findings.

Under the agreement, servicers would have to hire an outside consultant to review foreclosures that took place between January 2009 and December 2010.

Lenders would have to provide a single point of contact for borrowers involved in a foreclosure or loan modification program so they have a direct line to the servicer. Servicers would also be prohibited from so-called "dual tracking," the practice of starting a foreclosure while a loan modification is pending. □

Japan downgrades view of economy after quake



The headquarters of the Bank of Japan in Tokyo. Japan cut its assessment of the economy for the first time in six months after the devastating March 11 earthquake and tsunami and the resulting nuclear crisis.

TOKYO – Japan cut its assessment of the economy for the first time in six months because of the devastating March 11 earthquake and tsunami and the resulting nuclear crisis, it said Wednesday. The move came after the Bank of Japan last week downgraded its view of an economy ravaged by the quake and the



This handout photo provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) shows the IMF's Financial Counselor and Director Jose Vinals answering a question during the Global Financial Stability Report News Conference at the IMF Headquarters in Washington.

IMF warning:

Many European banks still on shaky ground

BY DAVID McHUGH

Associated Press

BERLIN – The IMF singled out European banks as it insisted Wednesday that more needs to be done to shore up the global financial system, saying Europe's weak banks are "caught in a maelstrom" and must beef up their financial buffers.

The International Monetary Fund said the weaker tier of Europe's banks are facing pressure on multiple fronts, from thin capital reserves which help absorb losses in sudden downturns and shaky investments still held on their balance sheets to unstable sources of financing. The warning comes as European Union officials struggle to shore up confidence in government finances and banks. Greece and Ireland have already needed bailout loans to avoid defaulting on their debts, and Portugal has also asked for help from the EU bailout fund. □

tion."

The quake and tsunami devastated infrastructure and manufacturing facilities in northeastern Japan, plunging the nation into its worst crisis since World War II.

An ongoing nuclear emergency had added to the uncertainty.

"The biggest risk, the most uncertain factor for the economy is the issue of power supply and the status of the power plant," fiscal policy minister Kaoru Yosano told reporters, referring to the stricken Fukushima Daiichi facility.

Wednesday's report warned exports may decline, production was stagnating and consumer sentiment eroding in the quake's aftermath. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday cut its forecast for Japanese growth, while others were even more pessimistic. □

'Idol' accused of weight bias; show denies claim

By LYNN ELBER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A 19-year-old "American Idol" studio audience member claims that she was barred from a front-row seat and told it was because of her weight, an allegation denied by the show's production company.

Ashley Kauffman, of Riverside, Calif., had complained to an audience coordinator at last show that she was separated from friends who did get front-row seats, according to Manfred Westphal, a spokesman for producer FremantleMedia North America. The allegations are "simply untrue," Westphal said Tuesday.

According to a FremantleMedia statement, Kauffman and five other friends were among the first to arrive for the show and were told that there were "six great seats" available, three in one row and three in another. Kauffman was a guest of a Riverside high school dance troupe that has attended previous telecasts of the Fox show and received choice seats because of its enthusiasm for "Idol," Westphal said.

The group agreed to split up and Kauffman "did not sit alone or in the back of the house" as she alleged, FremantleMedia said. "In fact, she and her remaining party were seated just four rows behind their friends, directly in camera shot, in some of the best seats in the house."

Kauffman was in a row that included a VIP guest of judge Steven Tyler, Westphal said. They were a few rows behind the judge's table in a spot that has been featured on camera before, he said.

Hannah Solarzano, 19, said Tuesday that she was part of Kauffman's group, which traveled from suburban Riverside to Los Angeles for the show but hadn't met her before that night. Solarzano said she was seated next to



Jennifer Lopez arrives at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards, in Los Angeles. People magazine is naming Jennifer Lopez the World's Most Beautiful Woman.

Kauffman and didn't hear any insults being directed at her.

"Nobody started talking about the comment that was supposedly made to Ashley until she brought it up," Solarzano said. "I never heard those words except from her."

While she couldn't support her account, Solarzano said, it obviously stings to be labeled as overweight.

"You don't call a girl 'fat,' ever. It's code," Solarzano said. "I understand how upsetting that can be. But, c'mon, honey, it's 'American Idol.' You've got to move on from there. Big deal." Solarzano recounted that she was singled out by a studio employee and told she couldn't sit in the front row because she was wearing shorts. Others in the group were taken aback, with one saying, "Oh my God, did you hear how she said that to you?" Solarzano said. It worked out fine, she said. "I was three people away from Steven Tyler, so I wasn't complaining."

But Kauffman did, repeating several times that a male studio employee had told her she was moved back because she was fat and couldn't sit up front with the "skinny girls," Solarzano said. □

Montel Williams

Drug paraphernalia charge dropped

MILWAUKEE — A judge dismissed a drug paraphernalia possession charge against former talk show host Montel Williams, who was briefly detained at a Milwaukee airport in January after a search of his luggage turned up the type of pipe commonly used for smoking marijuana.

Williams, who says he legally uses marijuana to treat chronic pain caused by multiple sclerosis, was scheduled to stand trial in May on the charge. But a Milwaukee County judge dismissed the case Tuesday at the district attorney's request after the pipe tested negative for the drug, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

"We concluded that this case

was not provable," Chief Deputy District Attorney Kent Lovern said.

Williams lives in New York but is participating in experimental treatment at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He said he forgot the pipe was in his bag, and apologized for inconveniencing the airport security agents, deputies and court system. Williams said he is thankful that he can put the episode behind him.

"This isn't about somebody trying to do something illicit. I'm really just trying to take my medication.

Hopefully this issue and this incident will spark some conversations that will help more rational minds find a way to



Montel Williams arrives at the 37th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards in Las Vegas.

solve the problem and take the patients off the battlefield." □

Hollywood has summer 'Help' for grown-up fans



Riley Thomas Stewart, left, and Mel Gibson are shown in a scene from, 'The Beaver'.

By DAVID GERMAIN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Movie screens this summer are not entirely booked with superheroes, kiddie fare and goofy buddy flicks. Plenty of mature dramas and comedies about dealing with or escaping from the problems of real life arrive alongside the season's big studio offerings.

If there's a grown-up blockbuster in the making for summer, it's the adaptation of the literary sensation "The Help," which has a built-in audience of millions of readers — women who can turn out in huge numbers when the right female-driven film shows up.

"If you make something new and original and depth-y and true and relatable, women are going to come," said "The Help" star Emma Stone, who

plays an aspiring white writer stirring up her Mississippi home town during the civil-rights movement in 1963 by chronicling the lives of black maids. "It's also great that the face of this movie represents America, because when we talk about women, often times we don't talk about women of color," said Viola Davis, who co-stars as one of the maids. "We're not included in that mixture, and in this story, we are included."

The summer lineup for the mature set also features Tom Hanks directing and co-starring with Julia Roberts in the campus tale "Larry Crowne"; Anne Hathaway and Jim Sturgess in "One Day," adapted from the best-selling novel; Woody Allen's French romance "Midnight in Paris"; Brad Pitt and Sean

Penn in filmmaker Terrence Malick's family drama "The Tree of Life"; Helen Mirren in the Israeli-Nazi revenge thriller "The Debt"; and Mel Gibson's reclamation project "The Beaver," directed by co-star Jodie Foster.

Longtime friends Foster and Gibson, who co-starred in 1994's "Maverick," had shot "The Beaver" before Gibson's ugly breakup with ex-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva, which resulted in his no-contest plea and three years on probation after he was accused of striking her last year. The movie had been in limbo while headlines swirled about Gibson, who already was on the outs in Hollywood for an anti-Semitic rant during a drunken-driving arrest in 2006.

Now "The Beaver" comes out as a provocative alternative to the popcorn pictures of Hollywood's summer, a season Gibson often dominated as an action hero in the 1980s and '90s. Gibson plays a husband and father in the depths of suicidal depression that runs in his family. Thrown out of the house by his wife (Foster) and scorned by his oldest son (Anton Yelchin), Gibson's Walter Black struggles to pull back from the brink by communicating through a beaver puppet he finds in the trash. □

Zeta-Jones treated for bipolar disorder



Actor Michael Douglas and his wife Catherine Zeta-Jones smile as they arrive for Douglas to receive the Icon Award at the 22nd Annual Palm Springs International Film Festival Gala in Palm Springs, California.

LOS ANGELES – Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones has been treated for bipolar disorder after the stress of husband Michael Douglas's battle with advanced throat cancer, her representative said on Wednesday. "After dealing with the stress of the past year, Catherine

made the decision to check in to a mental health facility for a brief stay to treat her Bipolar II Disorder," the actress's publicist Cece Yorke said in a statement.

"She's feeling great and looking forward to starting work this week on her two upcoming films," the statement said. People magazine, quoting an unnamed friend of the Oscar-winning star of "Chicago", said she had spent about five days in an unidentified facility. It was not clear when her treatment took place.

Douglas, the star of "Wall Street," underwent chemotherapy for stage 4 throat cancer last year but said in January his tumor has gone. In a turbulent 2010, Douglas's son Cameron from a previous marriage was sentenced to prison on drug charges. □

Same formula still makes a decent 'Scream'



Neve Campbell is shown in a scene from the horror film 'Scream 4'.

By DAVID GERMAIN
Associated Press

CALIFORNIA - Ghostface's 11-year layoff hasn't made the "Scream" franchise feel any fresher. But with a decent beginning, a mushy midsection and a killer ending, the latest installment at least doesn't feel any staler.

"Scream 4" is pretty much the same-old thing, which the filmmakers hope will seem new again given how long the horror-comedy series has been festering in its temporary grave.

Honestly, it's not an unwelcome thing to watch the return of Neve Campbell as the slasher victim who wouldn't die, Courtney Cox as the tabloid hack in bloodlust for a

story and David Arquette as the bumbling Barney Fife of fright-flick cops.

Director Wes Craven has added an attractive young harvest of fresh meat on the victim and psycho front, led by Emma Roberts, Hayden Panettiere and Rory Culkin, along with amusing cameos from Anna Paquin, Kristen Bell and others.

"Scream 4" opens with the franchise's usual prologue, this one modestly clever, heavier on laughs than suspense. But it gets the action rolling and the blood flowing for the main event: Campbell's celebrity victim Sidney Prescott returns to her hometown on a book tour for her memoir about surviving her encounters with the various Ghostface slashers.

Her arrival coincides with the anniversary of the original slayings, when the town's teenage Sidney idolaters already are in a frenzy for the annual "Stabathon" party built around the Hollywood franchise inspired by her experiences. □

Lady Gaga says she's channeling late Alexander McQueen

LOS ANGELES – Lady Gaga says she did not write her latest hit song, "Born This Way," but rather the late British fashion designer Alexander McQueen did so when he channeled it through her from beyond the grave.

Gaga told Harper's Bazaar magazine that McQueen, who committed suicide by hanging on February 11, 2010, "planned the whole thing: Right after he died, I wrote 'Born This Way.' I think he's up in heaven with fashion strings in his hands, marionetting away, planning this whole thing."

When the singer's label decided to release the "Born This Way" single on the exact one-year anniversary of McQueen's death, Gaga said it confirmed her belief that the British designer was working through her.

It was not she who wrote the



Lady Gaga performs her new song "Born This Way" at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

song, Gaga said. "He did!", she told the magazine in an interview for its May edition. McQueen, 40, and Gaga were close friends. The singer wore his iconic lobster-claw shoes in her "Bad Romance" music video and paid emotional tribute to him in a performance at the Brit Awards in London a week after his death.

In a fashion spread for the magazine, Gaga sports her new trademark "facial horns" spikes on her face that appear

to be protruding from beneath her skin.

The bizarre bumps, also on her shoulders, have been part of a new look ever since she debuted the "Born This Way" single at the Grammy Awards in February, leading to speculation that Gaga either had plastic surgery or is wearing prosthetics.

"I have never had plastic surgery," Gaga said. She said the protrusions are "not prosthetics, they're my bones."

The singer insisted the bones have always been inside her, adding: "I have been waiting for the right time to reveal to the universe who I truly am." Gaga, known for stunts like setting her piano on fire and wearing a raw meat dress, went on to say that the bones "come out when I'm inspired" and that everyone has them because they are "the light from inside of us." □

Eichmann craved post-war German recognition-book



People look at displays at an exhibition about German Nazi and Holocaust organizer Adolf Eichmann in Berlin. The exhibition "Facing Justice - Adolf Eichmann on Trial" at the 'Topography of Terror'.

By Eric Kelsey
Associated Press

BERLIN – Adolf Eichmann, a major organizer of the Nazi Holocaust, longed to leave hiding and return to Germany to get recognition for sending millions of Jews to their deaths, according to a new German book.

Tired of farming rabbits in anonymity in Argentina after World War Two, Eichmann came forward in 1956 in a recently discovered letter, asking West German Chancellor

Konrad Adenauer if he could return so he could claim his place in history.

The letter, along with hundreds of other uncovered documents in German archives, forms the basis of author Bettina Stangneth's book "Eichmann vor Jerusalem" which will be released here on April 18.

Stangneth told AP she was stunned when she found the typed letter from Eichmann in a mis-identified state file.

"It's a tactical letter from Eichmann," Stangneth said. "He wanted his place in history. He always thought he could be the redeemer of the German people. He wanted to relieve them of their guilt."

Eichmann was captured by Israeli agents near Buenos Aires in 1960. The book's release coincides with the 50th anniversary of his trial, which began in Jerusalem in April 1961. He was later convicted of crimes against humanity and hanged in 1962.

"It is time for me to step out of my anonymity and introduce myself," wrote a 50-year-old Eichmann, who lived in Argentina from 1950 to 1960 under the pseudonym Ricardo Klement.

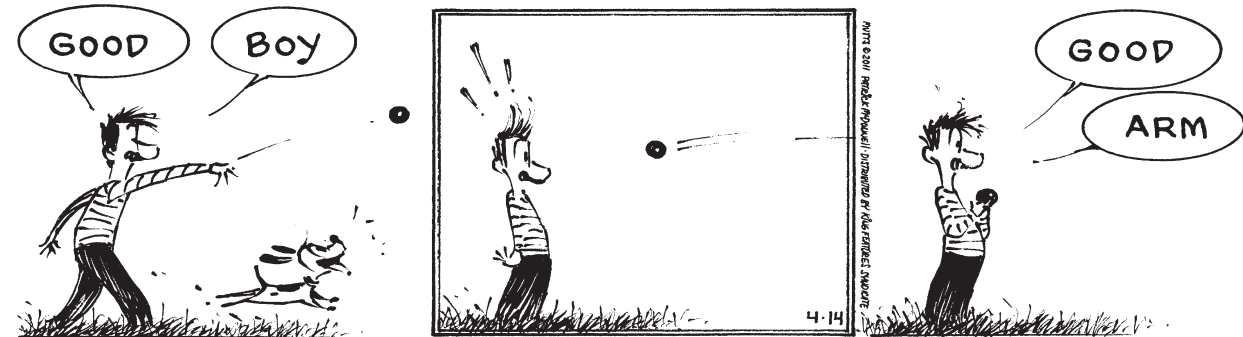
"Name: Adolf Otto Eichmann. Profession: former SS Lieutenant Colonel."

"How much longer fate will allow me to live, I don't know," Eichmann wrote in the remarkable letter addressed to Adenauer.

It is not known if Adenauer ever saw the letter or if it even reached his desk, Stangneth said. She added Eichmann and former Nazis in hiding abroad first wanted to have it published in a German-language newspaper in Argentina and in Germany.

But because of the content of the letter in which Eichmann acknowledged the Holocaust, the former Nazis decided not to publish the letter for fear of implicating themselves as war criminals. □

Mutts



6 Chix



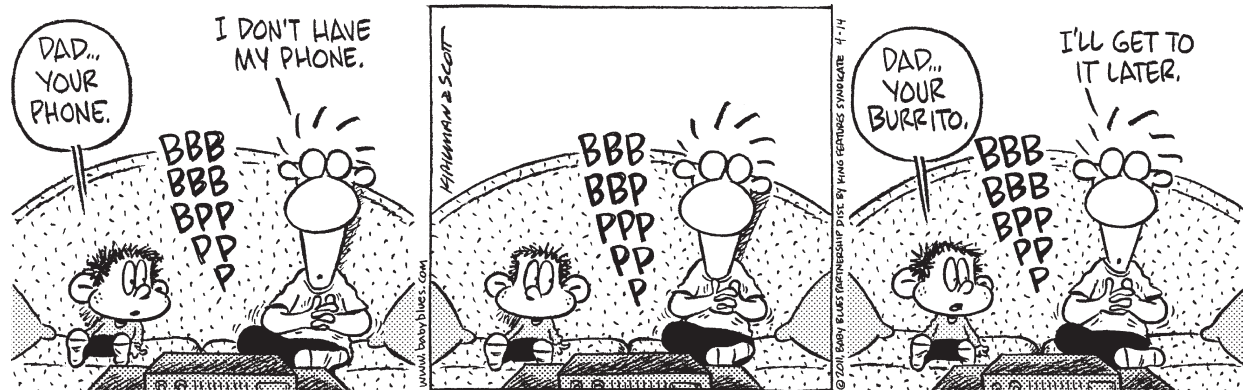
Blondie



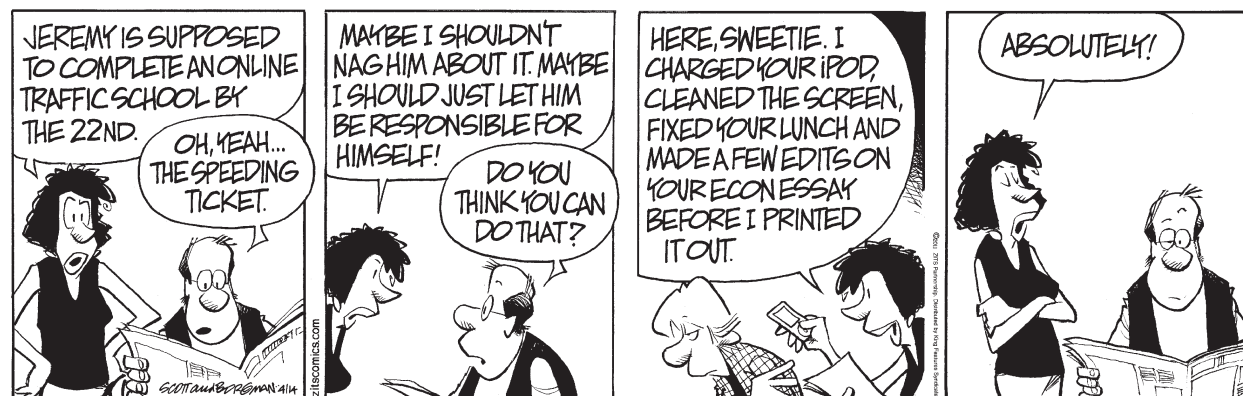
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		8	5	2	3	7		6
		1					3	
6	5		7			1		
3								9
		7			9		5	8
	4					2		
5		2	4	6	1	8		

Difficulty Level ★★

4/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

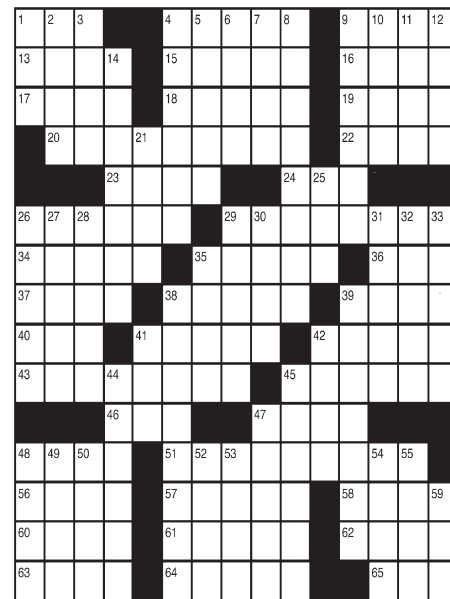
3	7	6	2	8	9	4	1	5
5	8	2	4	6	1	3	7	9
1	9	4	5	7	3	8	2	6
4	6	9	3	2	5	7	8	1
7	1	5	6	4	8	9	3	2
8	2	3	9	1	7	6	5	4
2	5	8	7	9	4	1	6	3
6	4	7	1	3	2	5	9	8
9	3	1	8	5	6	2	4	7

ACROSS

- Spring month
- Prolonged pains
- Hit-or-; haphazard
- Senses of self-esteem
- Sandbar
- TV's "American"
- Clinton's VP
- Handbag
- City near Lake Tahoe
- Begin to sprout
- Scrape; grate
- Yellowstone National
- Expert
- Block
- Not deserved
- Northeastern U.S. state
- Strict; serious-looking
- In the past
- Wordsworth or Longfellow
- Seizes with the teeth
- Unyielding
- Miscalculate
- Looked at long and hard
- Free-for-all
- Hearer
- Shorelines
- One of the 3 primary colors
- Fibber
- Marathon
- Agreeing
- School test
- Desert wanderer
- Orderly
- In addition
- Loop at the end of a rope
- Big celebration
- Bambi, for one
- Wrath
- Congressman's title: abbr.

DOWN

- Actress Ryan
- S, M, L or XL



4/14/11

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

M	E	R	I	T	A	C	A	D	L	A	S	T
E	V	A	D	E	L	A	N	E	O	G	L	E
N	E	V	E	R	E	N	D	S	P	E	O	N
D	R	E	A	M	E	R	S	E	V	E	N	T
	L	I	L	T	B	R	E	A	T	H	E	
S	I	E	S	T	A	A	L	T	A	R		
L	O	Y	E	T	U	D	E	L	E	A	D	S
A	W	E	D	E	L	D	E	R	D	R	O	P
M	A	D	A	M	C	E	D	A	R	T	W	A
	M	E	T	E	D	O	E	S	N	T		
S	A	M	P	L	E	R	B	A	S	S		
U	G	A	N	D	A	B	I	R	E	T	T	A
D	I	C	E	S	T	A	B	T	E	R	R	A
A	L	A	S	E	A	R	L	T	E	A	M	S
N	E	W	S	R	U	B	E	E	M	M	Y	S

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4/14/11

- Large, colorful handkerchief
- Dreading
- "", whiz!"
- Trench around a castle
- Shaking movement
- Ember
- Rent long-term
- Peruse
- Wheel rod
- In ; lest
- Shortly
- Air pollution
- Close by
- Strong wind
- Faucet

ARUBA DREAM VACATIONS, N.V.

TROPICANA ARUBA RESORT & CASINO

Wks 51, 52 1BR
Sale \$4,000, Rent \$800
Wks 1 thru 15 1BR
Sale \$3,500, Rent \$800
Wks 16 thru 50 1BR
Sale \$2,000, Rent \$650

ARUBA BEACH CLUB

Wk 50, 1BR
Sale \$3,500, Rent \$600

CASA DEL MAR

Wk 36, Ambassador
Sale \$4,500, Rent \$600

DIVI PHOENIX

Wk 8 Studio
Wk 9 1BR

LA QUINTA BEACH RESORT

WK 37, 1BR Sale
\$3,000, Rent \$600
WK 47, 1BR
Sale \$3,500, Rent \$600

PARADISE BEACH VILLAS

WK 1, \$12,995 2BR Pool
WK 2, \$12,995 2BR Pool
WK 4, \$12,995 2BR Pool
Wk 5 \$11,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 6 \$11,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 8 \$9,000 1BR Garden*
Wk 8 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 9 \$8,500 1BR Garden*
Wk 9 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 10, \$6,500 1BR Garden
Wk 10, \$9,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 14, \$13,000 2BR Pool*
Wk 24 \$1,860 Studio
Wk 19, 3,15 1BR Garden
Wk 20, \$4,200 1BR Pool
Wk 31 \$1,920 1BR
(Even Yr.)
Wk 32 \$7,200 2BR Pool
Wk 38 \$6,600 2BR Pool
Wk 42 \$4,500 1BR Pool
Wk 45 \$11,000 2 BR Pool*

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Tropicana 1 br. June 18 . Wk
25 Playa Linda Studio June 19
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until 4/16 or 508-651-0016
e-mail: rmwjmwa@aol.com 190892

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1 bedroom wk 15 room 241A Ocean view	\$6000
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Studio wk 16 room 106B pool/ocean	\$6000
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2Br wk 13/14 Room 306 Pool Ocean View	\$13000each.
4 studio wk 14 room 504 ocean view	\$6000
Studio wk 15 room 404 ocean view	\$6000
Studio wk 15 room 403 oce an view	\$6000
1Br wk 16 room 1205 Ocean View	\$10000
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2Br Supreme wk 2/17 Ocean Front	\$22000
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Playa Linda Beach Resort	
2Br wk 13 Room 632 Pool Ocean View	\$23000
1Br wk 13 Room 344 Ocean View	\$15000
Dutch Village	
Studio wk 13 Room 119 Pool/View	\$5000
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1Br wk 16 Room 2550 Ocean Front	\$9000
The Mill Resort	
2Br wk 14 room 234 B/C pool/view	\$8000
Riu Palace	
1Br wk 14 room 348 pool/ocean view	\$6000
1Br wk 14 room 368 Pool/Ocean view	\$6000
1Br wk 15 Room 542 Pool/Ocean View	\$6000
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Austrian church's 837 abuse complaints

A PANEL set up by Austria's Roman Catholic Church to help people abused by clergy or church officials says it has recorded complaints from 837 alleged victims over the past year.

The panel, headed by former governor Waltraud Klasnic, says 627 men and 210 women issued complaints, and 253 cases have been dealt with. It added yesterday that it did not have jurisdiction over an additional 72 complaints it had received.

The panel of laypeople close to the church was set up last year in the wake of a series of revelations detailing alleged sexual and physical abuse of minors and young adults by Roman Catholic Church employees in Europe and elsewhere.



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Oranjestad 582-4000
Noord 587-0009
Sta. Cruz 585-4710
Savaneta 584-7000
San Nicolas 584-5000

Emergency Numbers



Emergency 911
Police 100
Fire Dept. 115
Fire Dept. II 582-1108
Police Tipline 11141
Hospital 587-4300

Oranjestad

Ambulance 582-1234
Police 582-4000

San Nicolas

Ambulance 584-5050
Police station 584-5000
BGD San Nicolas 584-1606
Valero Security 584-1720

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Professional Taxi 588-0035
Taxi D.T.S. 587-2300
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Avianca Tel: 588-0059
Dutch Antilles Tel: 588-1900
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Jet Blue Tel: 588-2244
Spirit Airlines Tel: 582-7117
Suriname Airways Tel: 582-7896
Tiara Air Tel: 588-4272
Venezolana Tel: 583-7674

Foundation Fellowship Clinic

Tel: 584-6440
Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,
Anonymity guaranteed
Foundation Anti-Droga
Aruba (FADA) Tel: 583-2999

Foundation Respetami

Tel: 582-4433
Diabetic Foundation
Arubano
Tel: 583-3808

Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989
Foundation Amor pa
Prohimo
Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976
Women in Difficulties
Foundation
Tel: 583-5400

Science student killed at Yale

Search for tar, answers a year after BP oil spill



Presidenta de Brasil atestigua firma de acuerdos con China



La presidenta de Brasil, Dilma Rousseff, a la izquierda, conversa con el Primer Ministro de China, Wen Jiabao en Beijing, martes 12 de abril de 2011. (AP Photo/Minoru Iwasaki, Pool)

CHINA (AP) - La presidenta de Brasil, Dilma Rousseff, atestiguó el martes la firma de una serie de acuerdos comerciales durante una visita de Estado a Beijing en la cual buscaba mejorar las condiciones con su socio comercial más importante. Es el primer viaje a China de la sucesora de Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, quien se ha mostrado más sensible que su antecesor a los problemas de las compañías brasileñas que temen perder posiciones

frente a la competencia china. Para allanarle el camino a Rousseff, la fábrica de aviones brasileña Embraer anunció el martes la venta de 30 jets de pasajeros de su modelo 190 a aerolíneas chinas, un gran negocio para la compañía en un mercado altamente competitivo. Hebei Airlines, creada hace un año, acordó comprar 10 aviones para 99 pasajeros, en tanto CDB Leasing Co. encargó 10 para la empresa China Southern y firmó una

carta de intención para adquirir otros 10, dijo Embraer. Sumado a un pedido anterior de 10 Embraer 190, el nuevo contrato eleva el valor total de las compras de CDB Leasing a 1.250 millones de dólares, dijo Embraer. No se aclaró cuánto pagará Hebei Airlines. En una reunión el martes por la tarde con el presidente chino Hu Jintao, Rousseff destacó la importancia de los lazos bilaterales entre las regiones sudamericana y asiática oriental.

“Creo que la oportunidad que presenta mi viaje a China es muy buena porque ayuda al desarrollo de nuestros dos países, demostrando la importancia de nuestro diálogo bilateral”, dijo Rousseff en el Gran Salón del Pueblo, la sede del parlamento en el centro de Beijing. Hu calificó a Rousseff de “buena amiga” del pueblo chino y dijo que su visita da “nueva vitalidad y hace un nuevo aporte al desarrollo de los lazos entre China y Brasil”. A la reunión siguió una ceremonia de firma de una serie de acuerdos comerciales y de cooperación en las áreas de alta tecnología, educación, aviación y agricultura, informó la agencia noticiosa oficial Xinhua. Uno de los acuerdos anunciados es un centro conjunto de investigación y desarrollo de nanotecnología y planes de cooperación en tecnología del bambú y recursos hídricos. China es el principal socio comercial de Brasil y el volumen de comercio bilateral se ha multiplicado por 20 en los últimos 10 años.

Brasil registró un superávit comercial con China de 5.000 millones de dólares el año pasado, pero éste fue impulsado por la venta de mineral de

hierro y otras materias primas, lo cual generó temores de que el sector industrial se quedara atrás. Esos temores acentúan una división en Brasilia entre los que ven en China a un poderoso socio estratégico y los que la consideran un rival económico. Muchos en Brasil se han sumado a los críticos internacionales que acusan a Beijing de subvaluar deliberadamente su moneda para abaratar sus exportaciones. Durante los ocho años de mandato de Lula, Brasil adoptó una política exterior agresiva e impulsó los lazos entre los mercados emergentes, pero el gobierno de Rousseff parece dar más peso a los sectores del gobierno que consideran a China, la segunda economía mundial, una amenaza a la industria brasileña. El vocero de la cancillería china Hong Lei minimizó los problemas bilaterales, que calificó de “temporarios y locales”. Rousseff encabeza una delegación de directivos de muchas de las compañías más grandes de Brasil en su viaje de seis días, que incluye una reunión del BRIC —integrado por Brasil, Rusia, India y China— en el balneario sureño de Sanya. □

Encuesta:

Ofrecer oportunidades a jóvenes daría paz a Colombia

COLOMBIA (AP) - La mayoría de los colombianos consultados en una encuesta estimaron que eliminando la pobreza y dándole oportunidades a los jóvenes se puede conseguir la paz.

“La gente no sabe qué hacer en concreto para construir la paz y defender los derechos humanos”, indicó el miércoles Carlos Lemoine, presidente de la encuestadora Centro Nacional de Consultoría, en la presentación a la prensa del estudio encargado por un grupo de organizaciones no gubernamentales. La mayoría ve “el conflicto como algo no soluble”, agregó. Sin embargo, creen que la paz es un objetivo que “se construye con medidas estructurales” como acabar la pobreza y ofreciendo oportunidades de trabajo y estudio a los jóvenes. El sondeo fue realizado entre 610 personas vía telefónica del 11 al 22 de marzo en siete ciudades del país. Tiene un margen de error de 4 puntos porcentuales.

Al ser consultados sobre qué hacían en concreto en favor de la paz, 82% respondió que “no hace nada concreto, pero sigue las noticias”, 16% indicó que sí hacía algo concreto y 2% respondió que “no me interesa”.

Y cuando se les pidió dar tres de las principales acciones que Colombia debería seguir para construir la paz, un 51% mencionó ofrecer oportunidades a los jóvenes para evitar ser reclutados, seguido de 40% que mencionó “respetar los derechos humanos y evitar sus violaciones”.

El resto de porcentajes se distribuyó en otras opciones como “eliminar la pobreza”. Diana Sánchez, del no gubernamental Programa Somos Defensores y uno de los que encargó el estudio, destacó la percepción favorable que tuvieron los encuestados sobre los defensores de derechos humanos y las organizaciones no gubernamentales. □

Argentina y Brasil cooperarán en avión militar de carga

ARGENTINA (AP) - Argentina participará de la fabricación del avión militar de carga KC-390, de la brasileña Embraer, con el aporte de una serie de piezas de la aeronave.

Los ministros de Defensa Arturo Antonio Puricelli, de Argentina, y Nelson Jobim, de Brasil, participaron de la firma del acuerdo de asociación para la fabricación del avión que debe estar disponible comercialmente a partir 2018, cuando se vence la vida útil de los Hércules C-130, principal aeronave de carga militar en uso en el mundo.

Según el acuerdo, la Fábrica Argentina de Aviones Brigadeiro San Martín (FAdeA) aportará los llamados “spoilers” del KC-390, es decir, las superficies móviles de control y soporte de las alas.

La empresa argentina también fabricará las compuertas del tren de aterrizaje, la puerta de la rampa, el cono trasero y un armario electrónico, según el acuerdo firmado entre FAdeA y Embraer.

“La participación de FAdeA en el programa KC-390 fortalece la cooperación entre las bases tecnológicas e industriales de defensa de ambos países”, comentó Luiz Carlos Aguiar, presidente de Embraer Defensa y Seguridad, unidad de la empresa brasileña dedicada a aeronaves castrenses. □

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